

By John G. Biel Sept 7-12

Just 100 years ago last night—Sept. 6, 1856, the stores and business houses of Terre Haute were lighted with gas for the first time. Terre Haute's newspaper, Daily Express, for Sept. 8, 1856, with R. N. Hudson as editor and I. M. Brown, as local editor, reports that: "Saturday evening, September 6th, 1856, was an epoch in the history of Terre Haute, for our stores and business houses were then, for the first time, 'lit up with gas'. The gas affords a most beautiful light, and gives an air of life and comfort wherever it is used. We look forward to the time when we may find it pleasant to give a view of 'Terre Haute by gas light', at which period we will endeavor to reveal many of the 'beauties' that have long remained concealed. We are glad to see so many of our citizens employing the gas, for while it is a benefit to them, it also gives encouragement to the company who affords it. In

a few days we expect to have our sanctum, our composing and press rooms lighted with this fluid, and then we hope to give 'more light' to our readers".

On Sept. 16, 1856, the same newspaper reports that it takes "pleasure in referring our readers to the advertisement of the Terre Haute Gas Light Company asking a subscription of \$4,000 from our citizens in order to give a home influence to the enterprise. We think it is due the gentlemen who have erected the gas works that some countenance should be given them by the residents of our city. They have been unaided, at an outlay of some fifty or sixty thousand dollars, in erecting the gas works which has been done in superior style to any in the state, if not in the West, and will be a substantial benefit to us as a corporation and as individuals. There is no doubt but that an investment in this stock will pay a respectable

per cent, as all the machinery have been put up in a durable and substantial manner. As the present company members are entirely strangers they desire, in order that our people may have an additional guaranty that the works will be managed in a proper manner, that some of our capital lists should take some four or five thousand dollars worth of stock. More than this they do not offer as the builders of the works are fully satisfied that they cannot fail to pay a handsome dividend upon the amount invested. Persons desiring to make a good investment and aid a good cause are requested to call at the office of John W. Jones where books will be open for the next two weeks for the names of stockholders".

Again, on Sept. 20, 1856, the same newspaper—still exuberant over this new development in Terre Haute, and still carrying on its "fight" with the other newspapers in Terre Haute at that time such as the Wabash Courier, the Terre Haute Journal and the Star—reports that "Last evening our office, from composing and pressrooms down to sanctum, was lighted up with gas. When all the burners were lit, the whole office was beautifully illuminated and each hand enjoyed the thing hugely. The little 'devil' seemed to be in his right element and the boss looked as 'pleasing as a basket of chips'. When the old fashioned Courier, the no-fashion Journal, and the quasi-fashion Star will have such a flood of light poured in upon their dark sanctums we can hardly imagine; guess, however, it will be 'in the course of human events'. This is an era in the history of Terre Haute and the Wabash Express office is the first between

Lafayette and Evansville where printing is done by gas-light. Our office, our rooms and 'our light' are now complete, which enables us to work just as expeditious by night as by day, and on the shortest notice as well as in the best of style—in this we are determined not to be excelled by ANY office in the state."

Terre Haute was away ahead of most cities of its size in the Middle West. It was not until the early years after the Civil War that many cities came around to using gas lights. Before that, they depended upon kerosene lights which were serviced nightly by a "lamp lighter" equipped with a small ladder and a kerosene can. Even after the gas lights were used on the city streets, the lamp-lighter with his little ladder had to climb the corner lamp posts and turn on the gas—and each light was an individual unit. Many towns economized by turning off the lights as soon as people went to bed—and dispensed with them completely during a full moon—but the practice had its limitations. Persons, who had to catch an early morning train, stumbled as best they could through dark and ill-maintained streets and "they wrote letters to the local papers demanding that the city fathers give more attention to actual needs and less to economy and the calendar predictions of moonlight nights".

Terre Haute started its "gas light" promotion in 1853. On Sept. 5 of that year, the City Council approved an ordinance granting a franchise to Benjamin Barker and Harvey B. Spellman with the right to lay pipes for the conveyance of gas in the city streets. Under this ordinance, a plant was to be com-

pleted and at least one mile of pipe was to be laid before Dec. 1, 1855. His franchise expired and not enough work was done under it to qualify—but some pipe was laid.

It was not until Mar. 13, 1855—a year and a half after the franchise had been granted—that the Terre Haute Gas Light Company was incorporated—for \$70,000.00—with Reuben Woods, Silas Merchant, Thomas H. Hay, Daniel R. Tilden and Stephen I. Noble as the incorporators. These men were not local men but were all from the city of Cleveland, Ohio. When they realized they could not get the "gas works" into production in time to meet the requirements of the city franchise, the company was abandoned.

Again, on Dec. 21, 1855, the City Council granted another franchise to Samuel Ross and Thomas W. Hay. Under this franchise, they only had until May 15, 1856, to lay 2½ miles of pipe in order to have the franchise continue.

On March 7, 1856, new articles of incorporation were filed for the Terre Haute Gas Light Company. This time, Philip P. Dailey, of Philadelphia, Stephen I. Noble, James T. Wilson, Thomas H. Hay and James Adams, all of Cleveland, were the incorporators and first Board of Directors. The old Company must have laid some pipe because the new Company did comply with the "2½ mile of pipe" requirement even though they were too optimistic in predicting "gas light by July 4."

Anticipating the success of this company, the City Council, on June 25, ordered its first 100 lamp posts for the city to be used for gas lighting. In November, 1856, the Wabash Courier noted that

the buildings of the Terre Haute Gas Light Company were ready for occupancy. The company had purchased the ground on North Sixth Street just south of the Wabash & Erie Canal. They hurried the lighting of the stores in the downtown area and these lights were turned on the night of Sept. 6, 1856. It was not, however, until Oct. 25 that the street lights were in operation. The Wabash Courier reported: "Lighting our streets with gas has commenced. Night walking will soon be brilliant."

It was only about a year before the citizens began complaining about the odor of the gas. The Daily Union, on Oct. 23, 1857, reported that the citizens of Terre Haute were "complaining of the skunk-like odor of the gas". By Nov. 23, the matter was all cleared up. The Daily Union reported, then, that the "streets were again lighted after total darkness for two weeks. The gas is again clear and unoffensive—no skunk about it."

By 1869, the company had eight miles of gas mains in the city with 575 customers and 193 street lamps; by 1870, there were 245 street lamps in service for which the city paid \$31.50 each per year.

In 1871, a new plant was started on Water Street, a part of which is still in existence today.

The early "gas works" came in for its share of ribbink. Many clever—and cutting—quips and poems made the rounds of the newspapers of the time. One, in particular, memorialized:

Here lies a traveller, William Bell
To glory he did pass;
He put up at a big Hotel
And there blew out the gas.

Another extolled the "blessings" of the gas:

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Oh, this natural gas is a wonderful
thing.
And it giveth to dallying blessings a
wing,
And to many a sigh
It doth given strength to fly
And it maketh the lazy man merrily
sing;
When he comes home at night there's
no kindling to chop
There are no lumps of coal on the car-
pet to drop,
There's no hatchet to find,
And no ashes to blind,
And there's no pesky grate to go
flipperty flop.
Ah, the hours of the night he can
happily pass,
He may dream of the Summer, the
flowers and grass;
There's no fire to build,
For, to his task skilled,
He will lie in bed and turn on the gas.

Lighting with gas was first used
in Baltimore in 1816 — in Rem-
brandt Peale's museum — although
it had been demonstrated in Phila-
delphia as early as 1769. The
growth of gas lighting was very
slow, for some reason or another,
and many people had a great fear
of it. However, as a public utility,

the gas industry was well estab-
lished toward the end of the
nineteenth century.

More About Early Gas Lights

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The interest shown in the January 6th column dealing with the early gas industry here was very gratifying. I want to thank everyone who called or wrote in concerning the whereabouts of the almost-forgotten gas lamp posts. Like fire hydrants, mailboxes and telephone poles, most people walk right past them many times a day and never see them. Fortunately, some people are more observant than others, and in this way. It was possible to locate two of these forgotten gas lamp posts.



One was located at the corner of Third and Swan streets, hidden behind a large sycamore tree. The other one was reported at the northwest corner of Twelfth and Mulberry. The Terre Haute Gas Co. has removed both of these one hundred year old posts, and I was able to get a snapshot of only one before their removal. One is to be given to the Vigo County Historical Society to be placed in storage until such time as they open a museum. The other post has been presented to the writer, and will soon be seen in front of her home, lighted, I regret to say, by electricity instead of gas. Authenticity must bow to economy.

Readers Call.

Though I can take credit for locating the post at Third and Swan, here are the names of the first few readers who called me about the post at Twelfth and Mulberry—Carl Bailey, 512 North Thirteenth and One-half; Mrs. Roy L. Rost, 334 North Thirteenth, and Harry Wilson, 124 North Twelfth.

George E. Boyer called to tell me he knew of one of the lamp posts that was still in use as a clothes line post. His father, Marcellus Boyer, was a lamplighter in Vincennes, Ind. Later he came to Terre Haute and manufactured gas chandeliers. Mr. Boyer remembers, when he was a small boy, accompanying his father when he installed the chandeliers in some of the homes on South Sixth street.

From Herschel Wentz, 2410 North Seventh street, came some very interesting information about some present day gas street lighting. His son lives in Baltimore, and while visiting him there, he observed that some sections of Baltimore are still lighted by gas. Because of the high cost of labor to turn these lamps on and off each night and morning, the city left the lights burning around the clock.

Gas Light Era Passes.

According to a clipping from the Baltimore "Sun" of Jan. 1 "Baltimore's gas light era will flicker out in April. For the first time in 140 years not a single city street light will be illuminated with the soft glow of gas lamps. As of today only 1,200 of a network of 16,600 gas lights remain. By the middle of April all will be replaced with electric fixtures."

It seems that Walt Disney bought 70 of the more picturesque fixtures to illuminate a part of Disneyland in California. They can be purchased for \$10 to \$18, without a glass bowl that would more than double the final cost. There are still 200 lamps for sale.

Getting back to local history—Mr. George A. Scott, local attorney, who recently celebrated his 95th birthday, remembers very well the days of the lamplighter. He told me of the gasoline street lights which were used in the outskirts of the city where there were no gas mains. These gasoline lanterns were mounted on wooden posts and looked very similar to the gas lamp posts.

There were two gasoline cylinders two inches in diameter and a foot long on top of the lamp to hold the fuel supply. Young men

and boys were employed to make the rounds evening and morning to turn the lights on and off. They carried little four foot ladders and a good supply of big matches. At regular intervals the little tanks would have to be filled. These were located in the tree rows about a square apart, usually near the corners.

Coke Was Useless.

Mr. Scott remembers when coke, the by-product of gas making, was a drug on the market. The public had to be educated to use coke as a furnace fuel. It was not until World War I that coke came to be used locally in any great amount.

The second gas company to locate in Terre Haute made gas from raw coal oil. This was sold for 35 cents per thousand feet. It gave off a bluish light, burned too hot, and did not give as satisfactory a light, even though it was cheaper. About this time, too, gasoline lamps were used in the homes. They gave off a very bright light and had the advantage of being portable. They could be carried from room to room and were even used sometimes as yard lights.

Charged By Burner.

The earliest gas companies charged a fee for the kind of burner used. For the smaller size clay burner, the charge was fifty cents per month. For the larger burner, which gave off a flame as big as your hand, the charge was one dollar per month. Mr. Scott has one of these burners on display in his office. Later the gas companies installed meters and gas could be measured and sold so much for a thousand feet.

In the Bindley Building, where Mr. Scott's office is located, is a dance hall. When gas was selling so cheaply, the owners installed gas stoves for heating purposes. Some of the offices in the building also installed these gas stoves. However, they were not successful (in fact, they were very dangerous) as there was no provision made for venting off the fumes properly. Flues had to be provided before they could continue in operation.

Many other telephone calls were received from local residents who knew the locations of the gas lamp posts. They were reported in backyards, used as clothes line posts, grapearbor, yards lights and some complete with bird houses attached to the tops. After one hundred years they are still giving service in one form or another.

In their day, the gas lights were even called on to tell the time. This little notice was found in a local newspaper of 1858—"The Rev. A. D. Fillmore will preach at the Christian Church this evening at 6 o'clock, also on Lord's Day at 10 o'clock and in the evening at early gas light."

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Beer Bottles Reveal Story Of Terre Haute Breweries

T.H. Trib - star 2/6/66

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Some time ago I received word of old beer bottles being found in the sand bars along the Wabash River. Mrs. Lucy Eno, Sullivan, Ind., wrote me of the bottle her grandson found with the name PEOPLES BREWING CO. OF TERRE HAUTE, IND. molded in the glass.

They were curious as to how old this bottle might be. Research revealed that this company was organized in 1905 from the Terre Haute Distillery & Cattle Feeding Co., which became the Wabash Distillery, a subsidiary of the American Spirits Manufacturing Company.

Officers of the Peoples Brewing Co. before it was closed by Prohibition were: Chas. Murphy, president; Geo. Terhorst, vice president; Alva Mooter, secretary; Mort Hidden, treasurer, and Albert Kampe, superintendent.

Exactly when the first brewery began operation here in Terre Haute is not known, but in 1837 when hard times really hit and the State Banks were forced to suspend payment on their notes, 45 of the business and professional men here agreed that they would accept at par the notes of any Branch Bank, not of the Terre Haute Branch Bank alone. One of the firms that published the statement was the Terre Brewery.

Earlier history of that brewery is not documented, but in October, 1848, the WABASH EXPRESS announced that "the large brick brewery on the bank of the Canal, known as the Terre Haute Brewery" would be sold by Demas Deming and Chauncey Warren, trustees.



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Mogger Bought Brewery

It is possible that Matthias Mogger bought this old brick brewery, for soon afterwards, he was establishing his own plant at the Canal and Poplar, but on the "north side of the County Road near the bridge over the Canal."

The Wabash & Erie Canal took over as it came to Terre Haute, an older canal known as the Cross Cut Canal. This had been started in 1837 when the Wabash & Erie Canal did not contemplate building farther than the mouth of the Tippecanoe River and the only hope of transportation from Terre Haute would be by a canal from here to the White River near Worthington.

Here it would meet the Central Canal that came down from about Peru to Indianapolis and then follow the White River to reach points farther south. All the permanent work done on that canal was the portion running from Broad Ripple to Indianapolis.

Matthias Mogger had married in Germany, Catherine Mayer, a sister of the well-known later brewer Anton Mayer. In 1856 Anton, a lad of 14 years, came to America and on to his sister in

Terre Haute. He had been working in a brewery in the old country and for a while worked here.

The American method was far different from what he had known. He went to Cincinnati, the largest German city in the United States, and was employed there for nearly ten years, the latter part of the time as foreman.

Mayer Returns

Well-grounded in the brewer's art, he returned to Terre Haute. With another brother-in-law Andrew Kaufman, he joined in the operation of the remodeled brewery of Mogger. The story is somewhat complicated because of the absence of deed records of the first brewery of Mogger on the north side of Poplar Street.

In 1857 Mogger bought from the Christian Seaman a plot of ground extending from Poplar to Swan and 91 feet wide for \$300. Then in 1866 he bought from Seaman for \$2,200 the rest of the block between Ninth and the Canal. Somewhere in this interval or at the time, Mogger became involved with Adrian Bock. When Mogger was sun struck on the afternoon of July 14th, 1868, he had mortgaged the property to Bock for \$13,000 in four mortgages.

In September Bock and his wife Emilie sold the property with the brewery, fixtures and all the personal property to Andrew Kaufman and Anton Mayer for \$12,000, the pur-

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chasers to assume taxes and payment of the mortgages. After Kaufman's death, Anton Mayer, former brewmaster, became sole owner.

Opening with an annual output of 5,000 barrels of his product known as "Bohemian Beer," Mayer increased this amount to 20,000 barrels by 1889, the year in which the Terre Haute Brewing Co. was incorporated by Crawford Fairbanks, John Beggs and Demas Deming and began operation.

A tremendous growth of the brewery occurred during the presidency of Mr. Fairbanks. Prior to the advent of Prohibition, the brewing company had an annual production of about 325,000 barrels. Prohibition caused the resignation of Mr. Fairbanks.

Bauer Directs

The Terre Haute Brewing Co. was incorporated in January, 1933. Active direction of the brewery's operation was assumed by Oscar Bauer.

"Champagne Velvet" was the trade name adopted for the beer under Fairbanks' regime. There are several explanations offered for the choice of names. One is that the "velvet" came from a term used for fine spirits in the distillery . . . the best of the spirits were called "velvet."

It is suggested that the "champagne" was chosen because the brewery made a light beer, possessing a champagne color and sparkle. Another

possible source of the name is that it was adopted from a famed Dublin drink called "velvet" consisting of one part stout and one of champagne.

The old Kidder Mill at Water Street and Wabash Avenue had been a brewery before the Kidders came here from Michigan. At the southwest corner of First and Ohio was built the Easter Brewery in 1853. In 1878 the Internal Revenue office closed down the operation of this plant, and after six weeks allowed it to reopen.

Imberry's Brewery stood on the west side of Seventh Street north of Sycamore to the Canal. It had been built by Fred Berled who sold it to Frederick and George Burtsch of Indianapolis in 1853.

Brewery Burned

George Burtsch was killed ten days later in a runaway accident, and the property went to Imberry. It burned in 1874, and the ruins stood for several years until demolished for the building of the houses that now stand on the property.

George A. Scott, Terre Haute's oldest attorney, told of seeing the great barrels rolled down the lot to load on the canal boats before the Vandalia Railroad was built on the tow path beside the canal bed. He also told how Terre Haute's first sewer was constructed in this canal bed in 1875.

A bottle with "H. BECKER" on its side was also found recently by a collector. Research revealed that in 1889 the City Directory listed H. Becker and H. Voges Bottling Works at 30 North 8th street.

In 1894 this listing had changed to 821 Walnut and was Terre Haute Weiss Beer. In 1898 the address was 201 South 9th and listing was just "Becker, soda pop and spring water."

If anyone has any information on early breweries, please contact the writer.

Recall Sidewalk Stairways On Terre Haute Buildings

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

How many readers remember the old sidewalk stairways? Some of them went up to the second floor; others went down to basement business rooms. Most of them now have complied with Newton's law of gravity that "whatever goes up must come down" and in the "march of progress" these old landmarks have disappeared.

The last one to disappear from along Wabash Ave. came about 15 years ago. Do you know where it was?

The late George A. Scott, well-known attorney who attained the century mark, presented a paper on the subject of local stairways before the historical society in 1940.



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In his remarks he stated that on August 9, 1939, he noticed an old landmark had been removed—the outside stairway on the building at the southeast corner of Fifth and Wabash Avenue.

This stairway was made of iron risers and wooden treads and was put in place when the building was first erected about 1858. A down stairway to the basement was also constructed under this up stairway.

Originally the stairway to the basement was used only for passage way to the basement, but for about twenty years or perhaps more, the space underneath the "up" stairway had been enclosed and a place made from which to barter merchandise.

Used for Vending

Mr. Scott gave as his opinion that this sales space was first used by the Good Luck Butterine people and has since been used for hot-dog and soft drink vending purposes.

"As I looked at the place I saw that the sidewalk had been built over the space originally used for the stairway to the basement.

The stairway to the second floor had been removed but the platform, which is still left in place and an opening cut next to the building with a short iron ladder built on the side of the building for a sort of fire escape," said Mr. Scott.

This building was erected in 1857 or 1858. The offices on the second floor were occupied as law offices, real estate and insurance offices.

Among the early occupants were B. F. Havens, insurance and law offices; William Biel, Sr., insurance; James H. Caldwell, Edmunds and other law offices from 1904 to 1924; the Van Zandt real estate office and the A. A. Dix real estate office.

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Noted for Sign

For many years the Yates Hat Store occupied the first floor storeroom and was noted for its sign in front — a big black bear, standing up with a branch of a tree in both of its paws.

The children of this hat store went up toward the north and was destroyed during the Havens & Geddes fire of 1896. The White building now occupies the site.

At Sixth and Wabash on the southeast corner, an old sidewalk stairway once led to the basement. This stairway was located on South Sixth, starting near Wabash and going

down toward the south.

It was originally guarded by an iron railing. The storeroom was occupied by W. S. Rice, later by Havens & Geddes operating the Buckeye Cash store, then by Ford and Overstreet, men's wearing apparel and then by Kleeman Brothers.

This building was torn down to make way for the present man were Eliza Yates and Frank Yates, very popular in the younger set during the years of the seventies and eighties.

On the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue, an old wooden stairway formerly went to the second floor. This building at the time was occupied by Wilson Brothers and Hunlay; Tuell, Ripley & Deming, a dry goods store, and Philip Schloss, men's clothing.

The second floor was used for offices and Ed Seldomridge edited a newspaper from this place. A. R. Markle recalled that this stairway started near Wabash Avenue and Montgomery Ward building.

On South Sixth Street, the entrance to the old Prairie City Bank was by iron steps which started out in the sidewalk and went up four or five steps.

On one side of this "up" steps and guarded by iron railings, a stairway led downward to Captain Hector's plumbing shop in the basement. Captain Hector was captain of the governor's guard, unit of militia, at that time.

From Third Street to Fourth Street on the south side of Ohio the whole block was originally built with the storeroom raised about 14 inches with steps extending from the sidewalk to the floor levels. Each storeroom had a stairway to the basement.

Andy Gallagher was at one time located at 311 Ohio. About 1905 the floors were lowered and about 1930 the basement stairways were taken out.

On the west side of Fourth Street, south of Cherry Street, a basement stairway led down to the room where John Roggs operated a bakery.

Stairways Extend

Stairways to basements are recalled at 310 and 312 Ohio and between these two down stairways was the stairway to the second floor. All stairways extended out on the sidewalk.

This building is just east of the old temporary courthouse on the corner of Third and Ohio streets and the second floor of the building was used for a courtroom in the seventies and eighties.

The east storeroom was used as a saloon by William Shaul and was a popular gathering place at that time. The west room was used as the county auditor's office.

At what was Quinlan Seed Store, 317 Wabash, a stairway famous in history was located. This stairway was in the alley on the west side of the building. This building was occupied by the Foote Seed Store during the Civil War; later by the Ryan Funeral Home; then by Hoerman's Seed Store and now by Quinlan's.

John T. Scott, father of George A., occupied law offices in the second floor. During the election in November, 1864, Judge Scott went down this stairway to protest against soldiers from Massachusetts and Connecticut who were quartered at the old fair-

TH Buildings

Clark, Dorothy (files)

Buggy Shops Big Business During "Good Ole" Days

T.H. Tri-star 6/4/67

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In these days of modern automobile transportation we tend to forget how it was back in the horse and buggy days. A large segment of our local economy was geared to the horse, his saddles, harness, collar, feeding, housing, grooming and shoeing, as well as to the wheeled vehicles the horse was expected to pull.

Wagons and buggies had to be manufactured—along with buggy whips, lap robes, and all the other necessities of driving a horse-drawn rig. Then, as now, the rental business in transportation was a lucrative business, and since a fleet of vehicles was necessary to speed the departed one and his mourners to the graveyard, the livery business frequently was the basis for setting up in the undertaking or funeral directing business.

Some old records of 1872 provide many interesting facts about the horse and buggy days here in Terre Haute.

The population of the growing city was 18,000 and it was surprising how many residents derived their livelihood from some trade or business connected with horses and buggies.

There were three carriage manufactories employing 46



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employees. Their capital investment amounted to \$28,000 and their annual sales to \$80,000.

The one hub and spoke factory employed 45 people, totaled \$20,000 in capital investment and sold over \$50,000 worth of goods.

There were nine harness and saddle makers employing 52 people with capital investment of \$22,000 and selling over \$80,000 a year. The wholesale trade in leather, hides, etc., totaled nearly one half a million dollars.

Fourteen blacksmiths and horse shoers were employed in this city in 1872. They were: S. Archer, located on the

north side of Cherry west of Fourth; Burnett & Crawford, on the north side of Cherry between Third and Fourth; Edwin S. Cabbage, 31 S. Fourth; Christian Dressler, corner of Sixth & Lafayette; A. Glick, east side of Third south of Walnut; J. Hahn, west side of First south of Main; Ironsmith & Kizer, west side of Third between Walnut and Poplar; F. L. Myer, south side Cherry east of Fifth; Sylvester Owen, south side Main between Thirteenth and Central Ave. (this is now Thirteenth & one-half street); E. Peckman, northeast corner Lafayette and Tyler (this street is east and west between Canal and Tippecanoe); J. B. Sherburne, east side Third south of Walnut; Smith & Watson, north side Cherry between Third and Fourth; Stein & Fry, south side Cherry between Third and Henry Weaver, southwest corner Main and Central Avenue.

Scott, Oren & Company, proprietors of the Terre Haute Coach Works on the south side of Cherry street, between Third and Fourth, carried one of the largest businesses in their line of any establishment in the city. They employed about twenty workmen, and turned out some of the finest special carriages and fine buggies to be found anywhere in the market.

Scott, Graff & Company were located at No. 3 South Second street. This firm had long been associated with the finest built carriages, buggies, or spring wagons of Indiana. The members of the firm were all practical workmen and prided themselves on having ready-made work in a large variety always on hand.

Wildy & Poins, one of the oldest manufacturing interests in the city, were located on the southeast corner of Second and Walnut. They made a specialty of fine carriages and buggies which were sold in Vigo and adjoining counties.

Other carriage and wagon makers in 1872 were S. Archer, north side of Cherry west of Fourth; J. L. Binkley, south side of Main east of Thirteenth; A. W. Glick, east side of Third south of Walnut; Macauley & Deusner, northeast corner of Fifth and Mulberry; F. L. Meyer, south side of Cherry east of Fifth; Sylvester Owen, south side Main between Thirteenth and Central Ave.; and J. W. Shirley, north side Cherry east of Third.

Slaughter & Kerkhoff, whole-

sale dealers in saddlery hardware, were located at No. 5 South Fifth street. They had lately purchased the stock of Fred A. Ross and rented his extensive store, which put them at the top of their line in the entire State. They stocked leather, horse collars, buggy whips, etc.

Other leather firms were listed in 1872 as L. A. Burnett & Co., 144-146 Main street; Drake & Ross, 9 South Second; Ducweg Bros., 66 Main; B. W. Koopman, 158 Main; and J. H. O'Boyle, 178 Main.

The previously mentioned

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Hub & Spoke Factory was the firm of Keyes & Macourt, located on the southwest corner of First and Poplar streets.

In addition to the leather firms listed above, the following were included as Saddle and harness manufacturers: Farley & Roach, 80 Main; G. Handword, No. 2 South Second; Phillip Kadel, 196 Main; Geo. Kramer, 199 Main; Peter Miller, old Post Office building on South Fourth; S. Musselman, No. 4 South Second; Willis H. Richmond, 194 Main; Peter Ryan, southwest corner Second and Main; and Rufus St. John, No. 8 South Second.

B. Daugherty, located at the corner of Walnut and Water, was listed as the only tannery and collar maker.

Wolfe & McClung, livery and sale stables, were located at Beauchamp's old stand on the west side of North Third between Cherry and Main. They advertised their horses and carriages were ready on short notice.

The Prairie City Livery Stable included three different locations in the city. The proprietors were A. B. Fouts, W. R. Hunter and A. J. Thompson. They operated the Fouts Stable, on Second street between Cherry and Main; The Opera Stable, at the corner of Eighth and Main and the Thompson Stable, on Third between Ohio and Walnut.

Other livery stables in 1872 were: Beauchamp & Pugh, west side of Sixth between Ohio and Walnut; Eclipse Stables operated by E. W. Chadwick & Co., on the east side of Fourth between Main and Ohio; and Griffith & Gist, 142 Main, who operated the Terre Haute Omnibus Line.

Yes, 95 years ago this city was strictly geared to the horse and buggy type of transportation. The steam and gas oline propelled buggies had yet to make their appearance on our city streets.

travel

Gas Lighting Comes to Streets of Terre Haute

Clark, Dorothy.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK T.H. STAR 7-2-67.

An important chapter in Terre Haute history was opened 114 years ago. In June, 1853, Terre Haute seated its first officers as a city government. In that year Terre Haute with its 4,000 inhabitants was merely a town.

The railroad was only a year old. The canal was still in operation and the public landing between Ohio and Walnut streets on the river was busy with the arrival and departure of steamboats. The pork-packing industry had just passed its zenith and was to decline because of the opening of other packing centers in larger cities.

The streets were without pavement. There were few if any sidewalks of better material than wooden planks. And those who traveled after night groped their way home by the dim light of a tin lantern punched full of holes and inside of which burned a candle or sperm oil lamp.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

There were no street cars and the most active wheeled vehicles were the stage coaches arriving or leaving for distant towns or cities.

The telegraph was here with a single wire coming in on the National Road and running west to St. Louis. There were

only two trains a day in each direction and neither of them ran at night. There was small need for train dispatchers.

A half dozen or so new brick buildings which still stand west of Fifth street indicated the growth of commerce, but there was little activity in them after night fall.

New Gas Lights

Early in 1853 thought was being aroused concerning gas street lighting. Our local newspapers carried the story of the State House in Indianapolis being lighted by the new gas in January, 1852. It stated that a newspaper could be read easily in any part of the Hall of Representatives or Senate Chamber.

The local city fathers decided to overcome this prevailing darkness on Terre Haute streets by granting a

franchise to Benjamin Barker and Harvey B. Spellman to erect and maintain a gas light system.

One of the requirements was that a one mile of pipe should be laid by Dec. 1, 1855. Since this was not fulfilled, three weeks later another franchise was given to Samuel Ross and Thomas H. Hay.

Incorporated in 1858 the Terre Haute Gas Light Company acquired a tract of land lying on the west side of Sixth Street a half block along to the west and bordering on the canal. The plant was finished in a short time.

This company was to light the streets by gas. The company was to furnish the posts, lamps and tubing and the burners, while the city was to erect and maintain the posts. The service was poor and there were many interruptions to the service. On Oct. 23, 1857 the Weekly Journal complained of the skunk-like odor of the gas. Service was resumed after a two-week suspension and the Journal reported that the bad smell had gone.

The first gas mains laid under our city streets in 1856 were six, four and three inches in size. By the end of that year nearly four miles of pipe had been laid and 150 meters installed.

No Hitching

It was necessary to pass a city ordinance prohibiting lighting or extinguishing public gas lamps without the authority of the city as well as climbing on the posts or hitching horses thereto.

In 1872, George Rugan, secretary and superintendent of The Terre Haute Gas Light Company, wrote an interesting account of this interesting early industry.

"There have been laid about ten miles of gas mains. There are seven hundred consumers and two hundred and sixty public lamps. The Works are located on Sixth Street near the canal, consisting of a retort house, in which are four benches of three retorts, and two benches of five retorts each, a purifying house, and two holders—one forty feet and the other sixty feet in diameter, with a total capacity of 75,000 cubic feet."

"These Works being too small, the present needs of the city too large, and to make ample provision for the future wants of the community, new works are in the process of erection on the west side of Water Street, between Poplar and Swan streets."

"Being built at present (1872) are a new retort house

with the requisite foundations for ten benches of five retorts each, a purifying house to contain four purifiers, 12 by 14, and the other necessary appendages, with an office for station meter and business transactions on the south end. Coal sheds, etc., will be put in operation this year."

"The present officers of the company are: William B. Warren, president; George Rugan, secretary and superintendent; W. R. McKeen, treasurer; and William B. Warren, Demas Deming, Alex Mc-

Gregor, Firman Nippert, D. W. Minshall, W. Riley McKeen and George Rugan, directors."

For many years the rate per thousand feet was \$4 but the threat of competition in 1876 brought a rate of \$3.50 with a discount of 50 cents for prompt payment. At this time 14 miles of pipe served 800 customers.

Terre Haute has progressed

a long way from the days of the dark streets lighted by the brave soul carrying a candle lantern to the modern-day brightly lighted streets.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Clark, Dorothy.

Mining Interests Important To Development of City

T.H. Trib - state 10/22/67.

By DOROTHY CLARK

To trace the history and development of this locality's coal mining interests, we must go back to the time of the building of Fort Harrison in 1811. Easily accessible coal deposits across the river were a reason for choosing the site and why the government took title to the land on both sides of the Wabash River.

The next mention of coal in the history of Terre Haute occurs about 1833 when a few wagon loads of inferior yellowish surface coal was brought to town from Honey Creek and sold to the local blacksmiths.

No one at that time thought of substituting coal for the best of hickory, beech and maple woods, which could be had for one dollar and a quarter per cord.

But coal was known to exist in large quantities in the hills and bluffs west of the river, only one to four miles from town. This knowledge reached Jacob Thompson, of New York City, about 1838, causing him to come out here, enter in partnership with a local man, and begin the first coal enterprise of the day.

These pioneer coal operators chose the bluffs six to eight miles up the river on the west side for their first mining activities. Large quantities of coal were mined out by slopes, loaded into rickety barges, but none ever reached New Orleans as intended. When the barges were loaded and ready to leave, the river was so low they couldn't get floated and they sank along the shore.

The enterprise proved a failure and a severe monetary loss to the owners. The enthusiastic Mr. Thompson did, however, convince some of the old Terre Hauteans that the black stuff was good to burn in grates in their fireplaces.

But times changes, and nothing contributed so greatly to this change than the railroads. In 1872 an account was written of the growing coal industry in this area. S. H. Potter had this to say about Mines and Coal Mining:

"No city of Indiana, or of the West, has a coal interest equal in value and importance to that of Terre Haute. Such is her position in this respect that she may proudly, and without arrogance, boast a little, and challenge any rival to compete with her in a future development of manufactories and material growth.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Rich Resources Found

"She sits as a queen upon one of the most beautiful prairies of the west. The site is upon high and undulating ground, dry at all seasons, gently sloping to the north, east, and south, with a high bluff flanking the view on the west, affording sufficient low ground between the bank and high water mark for the location of numberless manufacturing establishments, and for manufacturing purposes, for the making of iron from the ore, iron of all kinds, steel and nails and every other class of manufactures. For fuel and for steam, no city can command coal as cheap as Terre Haute. It is on every side of

her, east, west, north and south, and good railroads, amply equipped, affording cheap transportation, penetrate all these vast coal fields. . . We have two to the west, and it is but one-and-one-half to four miles to the coal fields, where, at the depth of fifty feet, a four to seven-foot coal vein is found, and this coal is delivered to manufacturing establishments in Terre Haute at two dollars per ton of 2,000 lbs.

"The Terre Haute, Danville & Chicago railroad passes through an equally rich coal field to the north of us, at a distance of thirteen to twenty-five miles. This coal is also furnished at equally low rates.

"The Terre Haute & Evansville railroad to Rockville affords equal facilities and penetrates, also, the celebrated block coal region in Parke County.

"Now turning to the east and southeast, we have three

excellent railroads penetrating and crossing the bituminous and block coal district of this and adjoining counties, at a distance of only seven to sixteen miles, the like of which the world furnishes hardly a parallel.

Valuable Deposits

"First we have six and seven feet veins of rich bituminous coal at a distance of only seven to ten miles, which are being largely worked and supplying the market at about two dollars per ton. Next, at the distance of sixteen and twenty miles, we strike the block coal district, which is of more recent discovery and development. It is now scarcely five years since the value of this coal became known as a fuel for smelting iron. Some shrewd and observing iron men from Pennsylvania were the first to make the discovery, and profit thereby by

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making purchases and obtaining leases of coal lands.

"Previous to the discovery of the great value of the block coal those lands could be bought at from ten to twenty dollars an acre. They are now held at from one to two hundred dollars an acre. Then it was not known that there was more than a single vein, called the upper, or hill strata, which averaged about three feet nine inches in thickness. Within the last year a lower vein four feet in thickness has been developed at a depth of only twenty-five feet in the creek bottoms, and from seventy to eighty feet on the high grounds. This lower vein is found to be more free from sulphur than the upper vein, hence a very superior article of coal for the iron furnace. This block coal is mined by means of slopes and shafts for the upper vein, and by shafts alone for the lower. It is supplied to consumers in Terre Haute at about \$2.50 per ton.

"The daily shipment of this coal to Terre Haute, Indianapolis, New Albany, Evansville, Chicago, St. Louis, and to many other points amounts to from five to ten thousand tons, and the five large furnaces already on the ground consume two hundred and fifty to three hundred tons daily, and this is only the beginning.

"Let us take a glance at the south. The Terre Haute & Evansville railroad runs directly across a very valuable coal field at a distance of only twenty miles from this city. The coal of that region is being largely developed and mined, it is of excellent quality for grate and steam purposes, and the demand for it is large and constantly increasing. The vein is from six to seven feet in thickness, and the supply inexhaustible."

Potter closed with this prophetic statement: "Now what surpassing advantages do these coal fields afford to Terre Haute? Surely it needs no prophetic wisdom to predict that she will become a large commercial and manufacturing city, and that her growth in the future will surpass our most sanguine expectations. No one can doubt that there will soon grow up in our midst extensive establishments for the manufacture of all kinds of agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, architectural wares, iron, steel, nails and glassware. A beneficent Providence has provided well-filled bunkers of coal on every side for such enterprises. The question then may be asked with all due modesty — where in Indiana, Illinois, or in any other State of the West can capital be so well employed, and with such promises of success, as in the beautiful city of Terre Haute?"

Mining

Terre Haute Merchants Enjoyed Boom in 1884

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The Terre Haute city directory published by Chas. O. Ebel & Co. in 1884 reported that "our beautiful city in enjoying a boom this year, and we hope our directory will be the means of giving strangers and others a fair idea of our business, manufacturing interests, etc. Our estimate of the population is, in round numbers, 31,000 and steadily increasing."

In 1884 Terre Haute's mayor was Wm. H. Armstrong at the City Hall located at the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets. Other city officials were: Geo. W. Davis, clerk; Frank E. Heaney, deputy clerk; Charles A. Robinson, treasurer; Richard Dahlen, deputy treasurer; John Leedham, marshal; Albert M. Buckingham, deputy marshal; Sheppard Watson, assessor; Wm. Mack, city attorney; Harry Donham, deputy attorney; Geo. R. Grimes, civil engineer; Bernard Dougherty, street commissioner; Daniel Fasig, chief of police; John Kennedy, chief of fire dept.; Martin Kercheval, sexton of cemetery; and Chas. G. Klingner, market master.

In 1884 penny postcards still cost a penny. Letters needed only a two-cent postage stamp. Terre Haute had 25 churches, three hospitals—St. Anthony's, the City Hospital on the southeast corner of Third and Scott, and the Friendly Inn on the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets.

Terre Haute was probably the most organized city for its size in the entire country in 1884. There were 38 miscellaneous Societies, Unions and Clubs, 39 Secret Societies, and seven newspapers and magazines to report their various activities and functions.

Those who cared to drill and wear uniforms joined the four military organizations here in 1884. Those who

cared to sing or play musical instruments joined the five musical societies. The Apollo Band and Orchestra managed by Toute and McKennan, had offices at 332 Ohio. The Oratorio Society, organized



Dorothy Clark

July 23, 1877, met every Monday night at the Normal School building. W. W. Byers was president, and Anton Shide the musical director.

The Caecilia Singing Society met every Monday and Thursday evening at the southwest corner of 5th and Main. Wm. M. Statz was the president, Prof. Wm. Zobel, the musical director.

The Ringgold Band met at Dowling Hall. J. Breinig was the president and leader.

The Terre Haute Maennerchor met at Turner Hall, on Ninth street between Main and Ohio, every Tuesday and Friday evening. Otto Wittenberg was president, C. Bretting secretary and C. J. Kantman, director.

A scrapbook of clippings and local advertising cards of that era showed what products our grandparents may have used in 1884. Items of dress might have come from Owen, Pixley & Co., Clothiers; Stein & Heckelsberg, 421 Main, the old reliable boot and shoe store established in 1856; Myers Bros., leading clothiers for gents; A. H. Boegman, Ladies fine shoes for \$2.00 at 104 So. 4th; L.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

Goodman & Co., merchant tailors and clothiers; Greiner's shoe store manufactures all their ladies' fine shoes at 517 Main; Greiner's also had men's seamless shoes for \$3; John Paddock's Boot & Shoe Store, 407 Main; and J.T.H. Miller, clothier & merchant tailor, 522 Main.

Food items might have been purchased from Foulkes &

Morris, dealers in staple and fancy groceries, 417 Ohio. They carried the popular Alden Fruit Vinegar. Miller Bros. & Co. manufactured fine crackers.

John G. Heintz, florist, operated floral hall and green houses at the corner of 8th and Cherry streets. J. A. Foote was the seed merchant.

Great for Flannels

R. Dahlen was the proprietor of the Opera Music Store, 320 Main. Jas. E. Somes was the druggist at the northeast corner of Sixth and Ohio. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral was a popular

patent medicine of that time. Other popular products were Marseilles White Soap, "unequaled for washing flannels"; Acme Soap, "Cut in full pound bars"; and Soapine. Austen's Forest Flowers Cologne was highly advertised.

Wm. Alder & Co., 415 Ohio in the Union Block, was a dealer in wallpaper, etc. J. N. Hickman, 304 Main, sold White sewing machines.

Granite Iron Ware was "all the gossip." The colored advertising card showed three ladies taking a coffee break. Every item on the table, the

coffee pot, cups, saucers and pudding pan, were all of the familiar gray speckled granite ware.

Other items of great popularity in those days were Clark's ONT (Our New Thread) Spool Cotton, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, Red Star Cough Cure, and Hood's Sarsaparilla, one hundred doses for one dollar.

In 1884, Terre Haute had one feather renovator, J. Hanley, 26 North 4th; one hoop manufacturer, north west corner Water and Tyler; two horse collar manufacturers, Froeb Bros., 19 South

change, it has nothing to do with celibacy.

Lucas has come to ask the Vatican to appoint a black priest to replace retiring Washington Archbishop Cardinal Patrick L. O'Boyle.

Lucas, Harlem born and

First Telephone Service Offered Locally in 1880

Ts AUG 13 1972

By DOROTHY L. CLARK

The first telephone "exchange" was established on top of the Buntin Drug Store in a frame building erected for the purpose. The Terre Haute Telephone Exchange was incorporated Feb. 18, 1880 — 92 years ago!

W. B. Tuell, Herman Hulman, Sr., Frank McKeen, E. L. Norcross and John G. Williams were the incorporators with a capital stock of \$20,000 divided into shares of \$100 each. Norcross held 20, Williams 30, and the others 50 shares each.

The exchange was placed in the top rooms of the drug store building about June 1st, 1880. Will Ripley was the day operator and Charles W. Willmouth the night operator. Service was given from seven in the morning until ten in the evening.

Early press notices mentioned the exchange moved from this location to the telephone office in the Beach Block, and then in the Hemingway building, later the Anton Mayer estate holdings, where they moved five years later. Here they remained for ten years, paying \$200 a year for the use of the building. Incorporation papers stated the company was "doing business in Terre Haute and within five miles of the State Normal School."

There were 19 stations in the exchange and then in one week these jumped to 36 including: Clift & Williams planing mill on North Ninth street; National House Hotel, 6th and Wabash; George

Farrington, secretary and general agent of the T.H. & I. Railroad; the I. and St. L. Railroad office; located on second floor of Fairbanks building, then the McKeen Block; the Terre Haute

House; Adams Express Co., on Wabash near Center St.; Mewhinney Candy Co., 425 Main; Herman Hulman's wholesale grocery store on northeast corner Fifth and Wabash; Patton Brothers' wholesale grocery and meats, 116 South 4th; John Zimmerman grocery, 204 South 4th; American Express Co. office, National State Bank, Fifth and Main.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Also Wright Kaufman grocery, Seventh & Main; Western Union, 601½ Main; A. B. Salsich, agent of E. & P. D. fast freight; Joseph Strong, located where Hotel Deming now stands; W. B. Tuell's railroad office (president of T. H. & S. E. Railroad) in McKeen's Bank; Seath & Hagers Car Works, Wabash Ave. to Walnut St., 9½ to railroad; Elevator A, back of Deep Vein Coal Co. on Wabash; McKeen Brothers Mill, late site of Goldsmith's Commission House; E. & T. H. freight office; Anton Mayer's brewery, Ninth and Poplar; Ohmer's depot restaurant, Tenth and Chestnut; C. R. Peedle, purchasing agent for Vandalia Railroad; Phoenix Foundry, 231 North 9th; Padlock's Mill, 535 No. 5; I & St. L. freight depot, Fourth and

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retary of the Navy, when he called three miles to the Navy Yard and gave some instructions. This event was talked about all over the United States.

After the coming of long distance the local system was improved and copper wire was used to give metallic circuit. Then the rental charge of \$7.50 a month was placed on the service. In 1885 all circuits were made metallic with copper wire and at this time came selective signaling for party lines. In 1883 the company was called the Central Union Telephone Company with 360 phones in service. In

THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

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1884 Citizens Telephone Company was incorporated with Andrew Crawford as the only man investing. Mr. Crawford was honored by the Crawford prefix to later-day telephone numbers.

The first Citizens Telephone Company, however, did not develop until 1898 because of an injunction suit filed by the Central Union Company. In 1898 the first and second floors of No. 20 South 7th were leased and on April 1, 1901, the exchange was opened with 624 customers. Directors

were: W. P. Ijams, Fred B. Smith, Col. John Beggs, J. Keyes, A. Z. Foster and August Konzman. Charles Duffin was the manager. In 1905 the company was bought by the Kinloch interests, and the following year moved to 120 South 7th with a cut of over 2,000 stations. When the cut over was made to an automatic service there were 16,000 stations. Today there are over 55,000 telephones in Terre Haute.

You may think that the dial telephone is a modern inven-

tion, but the first one was installed in La Porte, Indiana, in 1891 by Armon B. Strowger.

Telephoning has come a long way since the Eighties when it was in its infancy.

Dorothy Clark

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Big Four; Hudnut's Mill, 400 North 3rd; Wabash Iron Co., 710 North 2nd; Eagle Foundry, First and Walnut; n's Mill, First and Poplar; Cox & Fairbanks distillery, site of Fairbanks Park; and Beauchamps Miller's livery stable, 121 South 6th.

The single telephone wire used then was strung from housetop to housetop for there single wire extended from the

exchange to the customer's house or office and into an instrument in the wall with a were no telephone poles. This ground wire from the instrument into the ground.

A button was pressed to give signal at the telephone office and plugs minus cords were used to signal the party called. In five years there were 128 telephones in use in Terre Haute. Most of them were located in business places and the newspapers printed the telephone directories.

Lost Distance Possible

The first advancement came in 1887 when the company con-

nected all instruments to a heavy wire that was carried back to the exchange in a common return system. With the advent of the alternating current, power and electric system was added and then came the long distance lines from New York, Chicago and St. Louis. This caused much excitement, and in 1879 a formal ceremony was held at the Terre Haute House with all prominent citizens listening in.

The demonstration took place in the lobby of the old hotel and the men sat around with transmitters, then sort of ear phones, similar to early radio ear phones, tight to their

ears as they distinctly heard voices from far away places.

After the formalities were over, Charles Bauer, manager of the Terre Haute House at that time, called his brother in Pittsburgh who was heading up the new Liquid Carbonic Gas Company. His brother started to give him a tip on some stock development and all those with ear phones heard it before Mr. Bauer could stop him. There is a picture of this momentous occasion at the Historical Museum.

The first long distance message of any consequence in Washington, D. C. was made by Col. Thompson, then Sec-

also copies Clark, Dorothy

AP Newsfeatures

Ts OCT 1 1972

Depression Years Cut Building Ventures Here

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Forty years have slipped by since the Depression of the Thirties, wars have come and gone, skirts have lowered again and risen again, and lowered yet again, pince-nez and Deussenbergs have gone out of style, science has advanced and humanity deteriorated. Many readers will not remember the decline of building construction here in Terre Haute, but we did have some.

Only one new factory, that of the American Can Company (now Pillsbury) was erected here in 1930. During that year only 1,170 building permits were issued at a total estimated cost of \$738,260.95.

The next year American Can Company's new million dollar factory was turning out 900 cans a minute at only 75 percent of its capacity. Finishing touches were being made to the exterior of the buildings. The entire demands of both London's and Quaker Maid were being satisfied by this one plant. Jobs provided by this new factory helped unemployment substantially.

Early in 1931 a feud had broken out between Mayor Wood Posey and the City Council. The Mayor wanted to build a new city hall, and the council supported the idea of spending \$25,000 to repair the old city hall which had been condemned by the State Fire Marshal four years previously. One authority stated that the roof of the building and the joists supporting it were in such a warped and charred condition due to their age and the earlier fire damage.

At one time a plan had been discussed to purchase the old Citizens Independent Telephone Company's building on South 7th Street, between Ohio and Walnut streets, and remodel it for use as a city hall.

The 1930 census shows that Terre Haute had a network of four trunkline railroads, radial interurban lines, paved national highways and superior aviation facilities. There were 157 industries located here, including the new Quaker Maid and American Can companies.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Early in 1931 the new AT&T building was started on Ohio Street. 185 tons of steel were placed on top of 50 tons in the foundation. Crews of skilled steelworkers erected the huge beams, using crane, gin-pole and a lot of tackle. So much steel was required to support heavy repeater machinery installed in the building and additional stories which were planned for the future. Some of the machinery exerted a pressure of 600 pounds to the square foot. The gin-pole used was of white pine, 45 feet long and hardly an inch smaller in diameter at the top than at the butt. The crane had a 40-foot boom.

Two of the city's larger industrial plants, American Steel Company of Indiana, located at 13½ and Deming, and the Turner Glass Corp., located on North 25th, were placed on sale by the receivers of the two plants.

Construction work started on Goodwill Industries building laying bricks for the new five-story structure. C. H. Garmong had the contract for the new two-story garage at

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Dorothy Clark

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the southwest corner of Eighth and Mulberry which was erected for Vigo Auto Co. Estimated cost of this new building was \$18,000.

Terre Haute's industrial outlook in the Spring of 1931 was "looking up." Despite unemployment and the aftermath of world-wide depression, the Terre Haute Malleable & Manufacturing Company was starting a sec-

ond foundry. This meant the return to work of from forty to fifty men. 275 men were already working.

From Highland Iron & Steel Company came the report that business was strong. Wabash Fibre Box Company was optimistic. Terre Haute Boiler Works hoped to be going full force in a short time. Root Glass Company was working and expecting increased activities within the next few weeks. Terre Haute Terminal Elevator Corp. employees were all optimistic for the future.

Quaker Maid plant had 423 employees working steadily. Stahl-Urban business showed the first increase in over a year. The sale of the Turner Glass Company to a New York buyer brought the hope that it would result in reopening the plant which had been down for several months.

Coal miners in the area were all working under new wage agreements effective until April, 1932. Some coal shafts had been abandoned which was deplored because it threw many miners out of work, but this made steadier work at mines remaining in operation.

Contract Awarded

A contract was awarded in March, 1931, for Dresser Drive, between Wabash Avenue and Farrington streets. The work begun ten years earlier by Banks of the Wabash Association was promising to reach fulfillment. The drive was planned to be 40 feet wide with ten foot gravel shoulders on each side and five-foot additional shoulders along the river side. There was to be a 60-foot driveway between Wabash and Farrington with a spur on Ohio St. from Water to 1st St.

Also, early in 1931, came the laying of the pipeline from Terre Haute to Evansville for the Kentucky National Gas Company. This line was to be connected with Owensboro line at Evansville and with the Missouri-Kansas pipeline north of Terre Haute. The fourteen-inch pipe was to be welded in double lengths here and then hauled to the site.

In spite of the "looking up" of industry in Terre Haute, there were still many men who decided the "back to the farm" movement was for them. The theme song in those Depression Years was "to raise enough for me and my family to live on, have a home to live in, etc. . . ."

Throughout 1932 conditions got worse. Between ten and twelve million workers were unemployed. Most of those who still had jobs had taken wage cuts. Most people with

jobs tried to help their unemployed relatives. Bread lines and soup kitchens multiplied. Meanwhile, the plight of the farmer was worse than ever. Between 1927 and 1932 one in every ten farms was sold for auction for nonpayment of taxes and debts.

For the first time the federal government stepped in to relieve suffering caused by depression. The nation voted for a "New Deal" by electing the Democratic candidate for President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Door Bell Ushers in First City Electricity

TS APR 15 1973

Clark, Dorothy

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

TS APR 15 1973

A century ago in Terre Haute there was no telephone, no electric light, no artificial refrigeration, no air conditioning, no radio, no television, none of the many comforts we find so necessary today.

In the Eighties and Nineties, contractors found there were no rules of fire underwriters, no inspection of any kind as to the quality of the work or the material involved. No house in all of Terre Haute was wired for electric lights and the only household appliance of an electric nature was an electric door bell with its push-button battery and wire.

The wire consisted of two wrappings of cotton fibre held in place by paraffin impregnation which did not entirely prevent its fraying out when in use. There were no dry batteries and the one in most common use was the Leclanch which contained in the glass jar a porous clay jar which in turn was filled with an oxygen crystal and a bar of carbon which formed one pole of the circuit and in a solution of sal ammoniac in which stood a small bar of zinc which formed the other pole.

The current generated by this battery would, upon pressure of the button, complete the circuit to the bell and would sound the signal. In time the zinc bar would be consumed and no current would be generated. Under ordinary circumstances an electrician would empty the solution and refill the jar with new and fresh ammoniac. After substituting a new zinc, the outfit was ready and fresh.

While gas lighting was used in Terre Haute, there were only two houses equipped with electrical devices to turn the lights off and on. A series of batteries and a spark coil caused a small step by step device to turn on the gas while across the tip of the burner a shower of sparks ignited it.

In the D. W. Marshall house on Cherry street, on the site of the present ISU Alumni Center, there were two buttons, one which caused the lighting of the gas, while the other extinguished it.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

At the Joseph Strong residence at the northeast corner of Sixth and Oak, there was one button which controlled the gas lighting. Alternate pushes of the button would light or extinguish the gas light.

There were a few other houses which did not have the automatic feature but were equipped with a wire near the opening in the gas tip and another wire when operated by the key or the chain rubbed across the other wire and ignited the gas as it was turned on. An interesting feature of this system was a small ball which hung from the fixture. It was coated with phosphorous paint which glowed in the dark and enabled one to find this chain in the dark.

These two methods of sounding a bell and lighting gas were at that time the only uses of electricity here.

By 1890 when the street lights were electric arc lamps and the incandescent light was in use in many store rooms, there was no house in all of Terre Haute which was electrically lighted and the wiring concealed.

In the case of the few residences which used electric lighting, the wires were strung across the ceiling and supported by wooden cleats.

In 1892 when Lewis B. Martin erected his new house on Eagle street where the Student Union Building now stands, the wiring was concealed under the floor or back of the plaster. The only visible signs of wiring were porcelain blocks containing three branch circuits for the first floor and the three for the second floor were at the rear of the main halls. From these six blocks ran a pair of feeder wires which terminated on the outside of the house.

Since no one trusted the source of the energy for continuous use, the house was equipped with combination gas and electrical fixtures. At the point of supply to these fixtures was inserted a so-called horseshoe cutout consisting of a "u" shaped porcelain block which supported

a fuse for each wire. When the Martin house was demolished for the erection of college buildings, it was determined that a fuse had never blown during all those years.

The old Terre Haute House contained its own lighting plant consisting of two belt-driven generators which supplied the current to operate the hotel. These were connected to a switchboard dividing the hotel into many circuits but at the foot of the switchboard was a double pole, double throw switch by which current could be drawn from either source of supply. The generators of the electric company service ran through the alley.

In 1892 the hotel had three stories facing Seventh street and four stories which faced Wabash. During the summer contracts were let for additional stories; two more on Seventh and one to Wabash were to be built to make it a full five story building. In addition to this there was a large room on the Wabash avenue side which could be reached from the hall below. This furnished a card room for the pleasure of the guests or others who liked a whirl at the cards.

The general contractor was named Cornell. He had had some previous experience as a builder. The architect was W. H. Floyd. Former historical writer, A. R. Markle, was the electrician on this remodeling job and collected over \$1,200 for the job. Markle collected an even larger sum for the wiring work on the Filbeck Hotel in 1894.

Other early electrical contractors here were Frank Miller who worked for D. W. Watson, plumbing and gas fitting, and Moore and Jenkins. Miller was a graduate of Kansas University, but there was little need for an electrical engineer in Terre Haute. He did some wiring in commercial and industrial plants as well as in a few residences.

Robert Moore, of Moore and Jenkins, did their first job in the house of J. M. Bigwood at the southwest corner of Fifth and Park streets.

The old electric company was threatened by the competition of the new company operated by Russell Harrison. They operated with a fifty two volt secondary which required for each lamp about one ampere each and in consequence six circuits were provided to supply a house with not more than six lamps on the circuit. This was far in advance of any rules of the company or of the fire underwriters or of even inspection by the city.

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Community Affairs File

Recall Trading Customs In Old Country Stores

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

There are very few authentic old-time country stores left in this country. You can find a few general stores in rural communities. Resort areas have their accommodation stores. But the country store of the cracker-barrel and the checker players around the pot-bellied stove has become more of a museum restoration than an actual place to do the family shopping.

From the days of the Indian tradingpost to the modern supermarket, the motto seems to have been "Plenty of Everything, and All In One Spot."

Many of Terre Haute's leading citizens founded their fortunes on opening a general store. Demas Deming, Chauncey Rose, George W. Dewees, Lucius Ryce, the Warrens and the McKeens, to mention only a few, turned ambition, hard work and imagination into hard-earned dollars to re-invest in real estate, banks, railroads, and businesses and become wealthy men.

From the early pioneer days of trading beads and blankets, kettles and axes (and firewater) to the Indians for their furs at the trading post, to the general store established in the small village or river town, the whole idea was to serve the community and make money for the enterprising trader or storekeeper.

Money was always scarce and barter was the method of exchange. Farmers needed coffee, tea, sugar, salt, medicines, tobacco, etc., all the things they could not grow for themselves. Of those mentioned only salt was indispensable. Their farm surplus could pay for these extras and luxuries.

Indian money or wampum was made from the thick blue portion of fresh water shells. Drilled with a hole, the beads were polished

and strung on hempen strings about a foot in length usually two white beads equalled one purple or black. Four loose white beads and six darks passed for a Dutch silver or penny. The English later changed this to six white beads and three black.

New England towns collected their taxes in wampum, and long after the American Revolution wampum was traded by the eastern Indians with those tribes in the Midwest.

Three-cornered trading in which no money changed hands but bills of credit, due bills, and store orders were the usual thing, set the pattern for trading in commodities instead of cash which continued in use in many general country stores until the late 19th century.



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bag, etc. which contained them. Tare was the allowance made to the buyer for the weight of the container. Trett was the allowance of 4 lb. in every 104 lbs. for waste, dust, etc. Suttle was what remained after one or two allowances had been deducted.

The old store accounts written by hand in beautiful copperplate are excellent sources of historical research. They tell what the people bought, what they paid, what they used in place of money, the items on the shelves, the prevailing fads and follies of the public, and "how it used to be."

Early cash crops of the pioneer woman included maple syrup, homemade brooms, skeins of spun yarn, dried apples, blackberries, blueberries, knit stockings, feathers, salt pork, butter, eggs, chickens and baked goods.

The women would trade these items for foods that were not home grown such as candy and chocolate, lemons, figs, oranges and raisins, ginger, cloves, cassia, cinnamon, spice, red pepper, black pepper, nutmegs, codfish and mackerel, tea and coffee, salaratus, sugar loaf, salt, soda and soap.

Perhaps she needed to add to her supply of natural herbs and medicines, such items as antimony, madder, ointments, linaments, paragoric, peppermint, rhubarb syrup, sal ammoniac, saltpeter, port, brandy, warm medicine, camphor, balsam and castor oil.

The country store was a housekeeper's horror. Soaps and spices, dishes, books and drygoods were piled on the shelves. Hardware and leather goods shared floor space with barrels of flour, sugar and molasses. A cat in the cracker barrel was commonplace. Axes, long chains, kettles, pots and pans, kegs of nails, were piled in corners or hung from rafters. Shoes were piled loose in a big box. Coffee, cheese and tobacco crowded the counter.

Women who bought yard goods had to hang it out to air before they started "making it up." The distinctive odor of the old-time general store is what most old timers remember best. After 1860, barrels of kerosene added a new smell.

Purchases were wrapped in "pokes" or "paper," a cornucopia of twisted paper which was wrapped around with string to hold the package together. The paper bag industry began to flourish about 1869.

More next week on the country store...

Early storekeeper needed
to master the intricacies of weights and measures and mark their prices in code. It was customary to mark off a section of the counter with nails or tacks, whereby a yard was divided into four squares, with each square divided into sections of 2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

"Getting down to brass tacks" or measuring cloth was 4 nail (na) equals 1 quarter of a yard (qr); 4 quarters equals 1 yard (yd); 3 quarters equals 1 Ell Flemish (E.Fl.); 5 quarters equals 1 Ell English (E.E.); 6 quarters equals 1 Ell French (E.Fr.).

There were tables for wine measure by which all bran-

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dies, spirits, mead, vinegar, oil, etc. were measured: 4 gills make 1 pint; 2 pints make 1 quart; 4 quarts make 1 gallon; $31\frac{1}{2}$ gal. make 1 barrel; 42 gal. make 1 tierce; 63 gal. makes 1 hogshead; 2 hogshead makes 1 pipe; and 2 pipes makes 1 tun.

231 solid, or cubic inches make a wine gallon, but a beer gallon contains 282 solid inches. A bushel contains 2,150 and 4-10 solid inches.

In long measure, 3 barley-corns make 1 inch; 1,728 solid inches make one solid foot; 40 ft. of round timber or 50 ft. of hewn timber to 1 ton or load; and 128 solid feet, or 8 ft. long by 4 wide and 4 high, to a cord of wood.

Tare and Trett were the practical rules for deducting certain allowances which merchants made in buying and selling goods by weight. Gross weight was the whole weight of any sort of goods ~~together with the box, cask, or~~

More Reminiscences About Country Stores of the Past

TS AUG 26 1973 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Boys who didn't have a farm to work on — the preachers', lawyers', and doctors' sons — often started out as storekeepers, and the training they received stood them in good stead in other professions.

Particularly did the country store turn out politicians. Outstanding examples were Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, Samuel Pomeroy, founder of the Free Soil Party in 1848, and James Duane Doty, Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin and in 1863 of the Territory of Utah.

Many clerks stayed with the business and became storekeepers themselves. A clerk's life might be eternally rushed and confining, but it was never dull. Almost everything that went on in town fanned out from the country store.

There was always coming and going in the store, and plenty of "settin'" too. On rainy days farmers who couldn't work outside came to the store to lounge awhile with the regular "setters." There were always chairs around the fire, crackers in the barrel, and small talk to join in. Clerks kept sharp eyes on the loungers, quietly moving a raisin barrel out of reach when a hand dipped too frequently, pushing a cuspidor suggestively closer, toning down horseplay, the teasing of cats and dogs that roamed the store, and the baiting of the village unfortunates.

When central heating came into use, and stoves were no longer necessary fixtures, the loafers' chairs and benches moved to the porch, or the sidewalk in front of the store. The supermarket even did away with them entirely.

In the early days respectable business houses never went outside to solicit trade, but soon the traveling salesman or "drummer" was out on the road. The early bagmen were frequently flashy dressers with gay waistcoats, vivid neckties, heavy gold watch chains and occasionally real diamond rings. They set the fashion for dudes across the country.

Loaded down with sample cases and order books, they roamed the country. Transportation was expensive, but hotel charges were cheap. Rooms and meals ranged from \$1 to \$1.50 a day. By 1860 there were about 60,000 commercial travelers abroad in the land.

The drummers of yesterday, like the salesmen of today, brought the storekeepers new items, new ideas, and kept the merchandise moving from factory and warehouse to the counters where people could see and buy.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Bath-Brick, imported from England, was the only commercial scouring polish on the market until Sapolio came along to supplant it. In brick or powder form it retailed for about ten cents a brick in the mid-1800's. Bath-brick has been known and used in England since the Napoleonic Wars when it was the English soldiers' standard polish for guns, uniform buttons, etc.

Sapolio, the first commercial scouring powder manufactured in this country, was brought out in 1869. After people were educated as to its use, it replaced the sand and Bath-Bricks formerly used. Many advertising gimmicks

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were used to introduce the new product. Using the trade mark "Spotless Town," Hammericks were popular until World War I.

"In Spotless Town they got a bore

Who slyly spat upon the floor.

They washed his mouth as white as snow

With water and Sapolio.

If you don't expect his fate,

You must not expectorate."

Starch was another product to be found on the shelves of the country store. Corn starch was perfected in 1842 and soon crowded wheat starch from the market. Fashionable stiff-starched ladies' "waists," petticoats, and light dresses of the 1900's set starch manufacturers vying for sales with gaily labeled boxes.

The following rules for employees, reputedly posted in a store in 1854, were widely reprinted:

THE FOLLOWING RULES

WILL BE PUT IN FORCE AT ONCE

Store must be promptly opened at 6 a.m. and remain open until 9 p.m. the year-round.

Store must not be opened on the Sabbath Day unless absolutely necessary and then only a very few minutes.

Any employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigarettes, getting shaved at a barber shop, going to dances and such places of amusement, will most surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and all around honesty.

Each employee must not pay less than \$5 per year to the church and must attend Sunday School every Sunday.

Men employees are given one evening a week for courting purposes, and two if they go to prayer meeting regularly.

Leisure time must be spent in reading good literature.

Another store owner wrote out the following:

We always commence our year's help in April . . . He is to sleep in store, board nearby where he may elude, so as not

to be gone too long to his meals, and do his own washings. We pay our help every Saturday night for what time they have worked.

Self-service stores presented their own problems. New techniques, low pressure selling, planned display, and "talking" sales were developed. In self-service, the importance of the placard was early learned. Once a quantity of Old Trusty Dog Biscuits, shaped like a dog bone, were purchased in bulk, weighed out in two-pound cellophane bags, and placed for sale. Next day a belligerent matron slapped a package of dog biscuits on the counter. "We can't eat these cookies, they're stale. They won't even dissolve in coffee." The identifying "Dog Biscuits" appeared immediately thereafter on the sign.

Terre Haute's Factories Prospering 70 Years Ago

Community Affairs File By DOROTHY J. CLARK Ts SEP 2 1973

Seventy years ago all of Terre Haute's factories were prospering and labor was finding plenty to do.

Highland Iron & Steel Co. was employing 500 men and turning out a large amount of bar iron. As fast as it was finished, the product was shipped out due to the strong demand in the iron and steel market.

An electric crane costing \$15,000 was being installed to be used in changing the rolls. Several train loads of shearing machinery had also arrived. Some of the machines were to be used in the muck-mill department, and the others were to be used in cutting scrap iron. Several small outside buildings had been erected for the purpose of sheltering the shears and for storing purposes.

All of the glass factories were busy 70 years ago, and the large stocks accumulated during the winter were expected to be depleted by the spring shipments.

The North Baltimore Company had over a quarter of a million dollars stacked up in bottles in its warehouses here and at Albany, Ind. Of the beer and soda varieties in both green and amber colors, the stock represented actual orders for spring delivery. Mr. Pfau, president of North Baltimore, said the entire output was sold up to May first.

Terre Haute's importance as a glass center was rapidly growing. The new factory which North Baltimore was building was completed June 1, 1902, but the fire was not started until September. This new tank had a 200 ton capacity daily and kept 24 shops going. Over 500 men were employed when the new addition was in operation.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

The Modes-Turner factory at 25th and Locust streets was employing a full complement of workmen, and bottles were being turned out with great rapidity. Their large stock was also stockpiled for early spring shipment. This factory was also doubling its capacity and planned to furnish work for at least 500 men when both furnaces were running. A continuous twelve-ring tank was newly constructed in the furnace building.

The Up-to-Date Manufacturing Company, makers of ornamental fencing, found their busiest time came between March 15 and June 15. Already doing an excellent business in 1902, they planned to double the capacity of their factory.

Columbian Enameling & Enameling Works got into production in the spring of 1902. The engines were in place, the machinery installed, and many of their skilled workmen and their families were already here ready for the welcome noise from the big whistle.

At the Streeter factory, three glass-blowing machines were in operation and all indications were the fruit jar market would increase.

At the Root Glass Works, factory business was keeping up in good shape and a large number of blowers and helpers were enjoying steady

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employment. Seventy years ago people were still talking and writing about Vigo's first county fair held Nov. 3, 1837, by the Vigo County Agricultural Society on the grounds of the Central Turf Club near Terre Haute.

Four stations were exhibited by Messrs. Huntington, Redford, Mullen and Hull, along with several very fine brood mares, colts and geldings. Visitors gaped at "three

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large and beautiful bulls of fine form and pedigree, besides cows, calves, jacks, boars, etc."

At this first county fair there was much interest in the display of the fine butter made by some of the ladies in the county. Some very high prices were paid for the prize-winning butter at the sale following the judging.

Of great interest was a fine specimen of sewing silk manufactured by Mrs. Morehouse. This silk was later on display at the store of Messrs. J. and S. Crawford.

Mr. Corey Barbour's dairy exhibited some very excellent cheese.

A fine piece of jeans cloth manufactured by Mrs. Hull and a piece of flannel by Mrs. Morehouse were also exhibited and much admired.

D. W. Rankin displayed a pair of beautiful mahogany tables manufactured at his Terre Haute establishment. His fine cabinet work was well known.

Local people were also reading about Paul Dresser in the newspapers in 1902. It had been announced that he would star next season in a new comedy-drama written by Edgar Selden, and based upon Mrs. Dresser's successful ballad, "Way Down in Old Indiana," which was to be its title.

The tour, entirely composed of week stands, was to open in Indianapolis on October 6 of that year. According to the news release, "Mr. Dresser has made Indiana, his native

state, immortal in song, and he personally confesses that the Hoosiers like him well enough to have circulated stories by which it appears that he has been born in every county in the state. He is going to play a genial, big-hearted, country tavern-keeper, a part that will be made to fit him so exactly that make-up practically will be unnecessary.

"The play, it is promised, will exhale the gentle, tender atmosphere of James Whitcomb Riley's poems, and the cast will be especially selected to portray faithfully the Indian character types. R. J. Jose will make, in this play, his initial appearance in an acting part, singing the song from which the drama takes. Mr. Dresser may compose some new songs for interpolation."

In contrast to this, the Vigo County Prohibitionists met at the Y.M.C.A. in regular county convention. All the townships elected chairmen except Lost Creek. Those

selected were: Fayette, R. W. Hay; Otter Creek, Mrs. Mamie Elson; Nevins, Ralph Hollingsworth; Sugar Creek, John Erwin; Harrison, David Kimberly; Riley, Mrs. Mollie Moss; Honey Creek, Orville Floyd; Praineeton, Rev. W. M. Halberstadt; Pierson, George VanCleave; Linton, C. O. Bowne; Prairie Creek, Q. A. Hunt.

Varied Manufacturing in Terre Haute in 1912

To MAR 9 1975 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

There was a time in its history when Terre Haute ranked second in the United States in the pork packing and flour industries. Over the years, Terre Haute has seen large and small industries come and go, change from one product to another as the times changed, and has known boom and bust.

In 1912 an "in depth" study was made of the employment situation in our city, and the results were astounding. There were some 215 manufacturing establishments in the city whose products annually amounted to more than \$30,000,000. It was estimated that over 12,000 wage earners in Terre Haute were taking home an annual payroll of approximately \$8,500,000.

Probably the leading industry of Terre Haute in 1912 was the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Co., which represented an investment of \$1,000,000. The factory covered eight acres of the 15 acres in the plant site. The largest and finest enameling and stamping plant in the world, it used about 600 tons of sheet steel per month in the production of more than 300 styles of enameled steel cooking utensils. It employed over 1,000 people, and had an annual pay roll of \$400,000.

Standard Wheel Co., manufacturer of carriage wheels, wagon wheels, automobile wheels, and auto truck wheels, was the largest of its kind in the world. It employed 275 men on the average, with an annual payroll of \$175,000.



DOROTHY CLARK

Commercial Distilling Co., manufacturer of spirits, alcohol, whiskey and gin, employed 125 men with an annual payroll of \$100,000.

Merchants Distilling Co. also manufactured spirits, alcohol and gin, and employed 90 men with an annual payroll of \$52,500.

The Wabash Gear Works, located on S. 10th St., was fairly new in 1912. They were building up a good business in the manufacture of all kinds of automobile parts, and employed from 50 to 75 men with a payroll of \$48,000 per year.

The largest brewery in the state of Indiana, and one of the largest in the country, was the Terre Haute Brewing Co., which had an output of 400,000 barrels per year. It employed 325 men with a payroll of \$300,000.

The People's Brewing Co. employed 50 men with a payroll of \$35,000.

The Vigo Cooperage Co., a northend industry, employed 90 men with a payroll of \$40,000, and manufactured five different kinds of barrels for all the distilleries here.

Griffith & Stone, kept 13 men at work manufacturing barrel hoops. Their annual payroll was \$6,000.

In 1912, the Frank Prox Co. had built one of the finest manufacturing plants in the state, and was employing 100 men with an annual payroll of \$2,500. They made "Duplex economic heavy duty down draft smokeless boilers," in fact, many different types of boilers, automatic coal cages, shaker screens for mines, mine cars, all sorts of mining equipment, and brass and cast iron castings.

Turner Bros. Co. manufactured all kinds of bottles, green and flint, with an output of 150,000 gross per year.

They employed 400 men with an annual payroll of \$300,000. The company also had one of the finest wooden box factories in the United States where it employed 75 men at a cost of about \$40,000 per year, and turned out annually 700,000 boxes. In addition to this, they employed 25 men with a payroll of \$15,000 for the manufacture of all kinds of corrugated paper products.

The Root Glass Co., one of

the largest concerns of its kind in the state, was employing 825 men with an annual payroll of \$750,000. It manufactured all kinds of beer and soda bottles.

The North Baltimore Bottle Glass Co. employed 650 men with a payroll of \$500,000.

The Miller-Parrott Baking Co. made about 100 different varieties of bread, crackers

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and cakes in 1912. They employed 100 men with an annual payroll of \$70,000. There were of course, other bakeries in Terre Haute, but this was the largest.

Bennett & Bennett, makers of brick and concrete products, employed 15 men with an annual payroll of \$7,000.

Chas. W. Hoff employed 25 men at \$8,000 total payroll annually to make brick and was unable to supply the demand. O'Mara Bros. employed 10 men at \$5,000 per year to make brick. The Terre Haute Vitrified Brick Co. made paving building and sewer brick from shale, and employed 150 men whose payroll amounted to \$65,000. The Wabash Brick Co. also manufactured shale brick, and employed 40 men at \$25,000.

The Terre Haute Bronze & Brass Foundry made bronze, brass and composition

castings. It was new in 1912 and employed three men with an annual payroll of 2,000.

The American Car & Foundry Co., one of the largest industries in Indiana, employed 1,000 men with an annual payroll of \$640,000.

The Fouts-Hunter Carriage Manufacturing Co., made what was known as "Cozy Cabs," about 1,500 per year which were shipped to all parts of the country. They employed 22 men with an annual payroll of \$20,000.

O'Brien & O'Connell were building up an enviable reputation in the manufacture of combination chemical, hose wagons, horse or motor trucks, automobile commercial cars and trucks, carriages, buggies, phaetons and wagons. It gave steady employment to 20 men with an annual payroll of \$15,600.

The Terre Haute Casket Co. manufactured 500 burial caskets of various designs every year, giving employment to 10 men with a payroll of \$6,000.

Next week the story of local industry in 1912 will continue.

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Terre Haute Industries

In 1912 . . . Part 2

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A study of local industry, employment and its payroll, and the many "Made in Terre Haute" products shipped all over the world in 1912 makes an interesting contrast with Terre Haute's economy some 63 years later. The list of the larger industries is continued from last week . . .

The Gartland Foundry Co., one of Terre Haute's largest industries, made all kinds of light grey iron castings, typewriter parts, lawn mower parts, and all kinds of light work in its line. In 1912 there were very few factories of its kind which could produce as fine a grade of work put out by the 80 employees with an annual pay roll of \$70,000.

Terre Haute Malleable & Manufacturing Co. employed 275 men in the making of all kinds of malleable castings. Their payroll totaled \$150,000 per year.

The Inland Steel Casting Co. employed 90 men in the manufacture of crucible steel and annealed steel castings. Their payroll was \$52,000 per year.

The Loudon Packing Co., makers of a variety of catsup and canned goods including soups, had the finest plant of its kind in the United States, and was used by the government as a model in its line. During the busy season it employed 450 people with an annual payroll of \$27,000. In 1912 the company did a million-dollar business.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

The American Clay Co., located on the west side of the river, manufactured 100 shapes of fire-proofing, the finest plant of its kind in Indiana. It employed 100 men with an annual pay roll of \$50,000.

The Vigo Clay Co., also located on the west side of the

river, engaged in the manufacture of fire proofing, hollow building blocks and drain tile. They employed 70 men with an annual pay roll of \$42,000.

The National Drain Tile Co., largest of its kind in the world, operated a number of plants across the country, but carried on all its business from the Terre Haute office. It manufactured all kinds of drain tile from 3-inch to 30-inch in diameter. It employed locally 80 men with an annual payroll of \$40,000.

Samuel Frank & Sons manufactured pants, coats and overalls, producing 25,000 dozen per year. The firm employed 500 people with an annual payroll of \$175,000. Stahl, Urban & Co. gave employment to 200 people in the making of ten styles of working men's clothing. Their payroll amounted to \$90,000.

The Ehrmann Manufacturing Co. made about 250 different styles of overalls, jackets, shirts, pants and coats. They employed 190 people with an annual payroll of \$70,000.

The A. B. Mewhinney Co. made fine chocolates and bonbons, fancy hard candies, marshmallows, butter scotches, caramels and penny specialties. They also made heavy shelf boxes, light shipping boxes, fancy candy and souvenir boxes and all kinds of set-up boxes, employing from 150 to 175 people, and six salesmen and a payroll of \$50,000 per year.

The Kester Electric Motor Co. made four styles of motor dynamos and switch boards. It employed from 15 to 35 men with an annual payroll of \$30,000. The Terre Haute Motor Co. made four styles of automobile engines, employing 10 to 20 men, with a yearly payroll of \$11,000.

Hulman & Co. gave employment to 200 people in 1912, and manufactured baking powder, extracts of various kinds, preserves and syrups, tin cans and roasted coffee. Its pay roll was \$200,000 per year.

Jos. Strong & Co. made baking powder, flavoring extracts, liquid bluing, self-raising flour, roasted and ground coffee and ground spices. It employed 30 men with an annual payroll of \$21,000.

The Up-to-Date Manufacturing Co. made gates, bank and office railings, window guards, fire escapes, stable fixtures, wire and steel settees, elevator enclosures, roof cresting, cellar gratings,

structural steel work of all kinds, coal screens, iron stairs and anything else of iron or brass, about 200 items in all, shipping its products all over the world. It employed 30 men with an annual pay roll of \$16,000.

The Indiana Milling Co. was engaged in the manufacture of "Sterling Mixed Feed" of three varieties. It employed 40 men with a payroll of \$20,000 a year. The Sparks Milling Co. produced 11,000 barrels of flour annually.

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valued at \$600,000 and gave employment to 30 men and had an annual payroll of \$18,000.

The Terre Haute Handle Co. made handles and staffs, employing 20 men in the factory and 10 in the woods, with a payroll of \$22,000 per year.

C. C. Fisbeck employed seven men in the manufacture of saddles and harness with an annual payroll of \$4,500.

The Furnas Ice Cream Co. had a payroll of \$7,500 a year in the making of ice cream and butter. The Model Ice Cream Co. paid eight men \$7,000 a year.

The Highland Iron & Steel Co., one of the most important of the city's industries, manufactured bar iron and steel, employing 600 men. Its payroll was \$300,000 annually. The Buettner & Shelburne Machine Co. employed 33 men in the making of mining machinery with an annual payroll of \$20,000.

P. S. Mace manufactured hardwood lumber of various kinds, employing 20 to 30 men with an annual payroll of \$10,000 to \$14,000.

The Vigo Manufacturing Co. made the "Automatic Corn-Popping Machine" which measured the corn, popped it, salted and buttered it, put it in a sack and delivered it on dropping a nickel in the slot. They employed 25 men, annual payroll \$25,000.

The Terre Haute Spring and Mattress Co. made all kinds of mattresses, employing 20 people with a payroll of \$10,000.

The Home Packing & Ice Co. cured all kinds of meats, made lard, fertilizer, tallow and grease, employed 100 men and a payroll of \$62,000.

Next week's column will conclude the 1912 industries of Terre Haute.

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Terre Haute Industries In 1912...Part 3

By DOROTHY J. CLARK MAR 23 1975

For the last two weeks, this column has listed the major industries of Terre Haute of the year 1912. Unemployment was certainly not a concern in those booming times, and products stamped "Made in Terre Haute" were shipped all over the world. This week's column will complete the list of local industries, the number of men they employed, and their annual payroll.

The Builders' Supply Manufacturing Co. in 1912 made all sorts of interior finish for buildings, employing from 35 to 50 men, and an annual payroll of \$30,000.

The Terre Haute Monument Co. manufactured all sorts of monuments and general cemetery work, employing 10 men and an annual payroll of \$10,000.

The Smith-Alsop Paint & Varnish Co. manufactured 54 varieties of paint, employed 11 men and had an annual payroll of \$8,000.

The Terre Haute Paper Co.

manufactured straw wrapping paper and straw board, turning out an average

of 30 tons of finished articles per day. They employed 75 men with an annual payroll of \$50,000.

The Rose Polytechnic

Institute engaged in commercial work, principally pattern making, machine work,

black-smithing, brass and aluminum castings and gear-cutting. They also manufactured in small quantities, as specialties, name plates, belt buckles, brass models, trolley switches and air compres-

sors. In addition to its student force, it employed 12 men with an average payroll of \$9,000.

The American Playground Device & Swing Co. made 20 varieties of porch furniture and playground devices, employing 20 men and a payroll of \$5,000.

The Government Standard Scale Works manufactured heavy scales with a capacity from one ton to 325 tons. They made 250 sizes of scales, test cards, master testing machines, heavy scales, employed from 18 to 30 men with an annual payroll of 12,000. The United States Scale Factory made some 40 modifications of scales, employed 14 men with an annual payroll of \$10,000.

The Wallis Stoker & Manufacturing Co. made two types of automatic stokers. The American Stone & Conduit Co. made 15 varieties of artificial stone, giving employment to six men with an annual payroll of \$2,400. The Terre Haute Stone Works Co. manufactured all kinds of cut stones and employed 12 men with an average payroll of \$6,000.

The Springer-Whitaker Foundry Co. made stoves, ranges and furnace repair parts, employed eight men and a payroll of \$4,000. The E. T. Hazeldine Co. made parts for general machine repairing and employed 15 men with a payroll of \$10,000.

The Bear Manufacturing Co. manufactured four kinds of toilet waters, 11 kinds of face tonics, 3 kinds of hair tonics, 4 kinds of face creams, employed 9 men and had an annual payroll of \$6,000.

The Wabash Manufacturing Co. made wagons and sleds for children. They employed 80 men with a payroll of \$20,000. The Johnson Bros. Co. manufactured marine and aviation motors and aeroplanes, employing seven men with a payroll of \$6,700.

P. H. Monninger & Sons manufactured twelve varieties of wines, employed 7 men and had an annual payroll of \$2,500.

The 1912 listing of Terre Haute industries totaled 8,617 men, with an aggregate payroll of \$4,929,600. This did not include the Pennsylvania Railroad shops, which employed about 1,000 men, with an annual payroll of nearly \$96,000. Neither does it include 1,200 men otherwise employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad who resided in Terre Haute and whose wages amounted to \$1,000,000.

In 1912, 50 local men were employed by the Big Four Railroad Co., whose payroll amounted to \$216,000; 310 men were employed by the Frisco Lines whose payroll annually amounted to about \$240,000; 560 men were employed by the Southeastern Railway with a payroll of \$516,000; 400 men were employed by the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction Co., whose payroll amounted to \$200,000 per year.

Added to these figures could be added other employees engaged in manufacturing on

Continued on Page 6, Col. 1.

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

a smaller scale, which would bring the total up to 12,000 wage earners in Terre Haute, with an annual payroll of probably \$8,500,000.

It is said that one half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. Concerning some towns, it is said they are just large enough for everybody to know all about everybody's business. In Terre Haute very few people, comparatively, can tell you what the local people are doing.

The question is often asked: How many wage earners are there in Terre Haute? What is the amount of annual payroll of Terre Haute wage earners? But you seldom hear any of our people ask: What is made in the factories in Terre Haute? And if they did ask, how many people have we who could tell them?

In 1912 a survey was made, and at that time there were some 215 manufacturing establishments in the city whose products annually amounted to more than thirty million dollars. Before the turn of the century, they were not so numerous and their activities were limited to fewer lines. City fathers put forth a great effort to bring a diversity of industries to Terre Haute. It would be interesting to compare 1912 with the present day economy, number of industries, employment and annual payroll.

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First Local Hardware Firm Was Established in 1842

TS SEP 21 1975

By DOROTHY J CLARK

TS SEP 21 1975

The hardware trade of Terre Haute was very large and growing a century ago. Among the leading firms in this line was that of Simeon Cory at 429 Main and 9 S 5th St. This house was a pioneer in its line, established in the days of log cabins and corduroy roads in 1842 by S H Potter & Co.

Mr Cory purchased the business in 1865, and being a genial straight-forward business man, possessed of a thorough knowledge of the hardware trade, has met with marked success in his business. His trade extends throughout western Indiana and eastern and central Illinois and has a wide and well merited reputation. According to the 1877 business directory he carried a full and complete stock in his line and transacts an annual business of from \$130,000 to \$150,000.

Another of the old solid establishments of the city in 1877 was G Foster Smith, dealer in stoves and tinware, and manufacturer of copper and sheet iron ware, located at 514 Main in a three-story building, 18x140 feet, established in 1842 when Terre Haute was but a country village.

His tinshop was extensive in both retail and wholesale sales, and he kept an extensive stock of tinware and other articles which go to make a complete outfit for a kitchen. His stoves came from the best manufacturers in the country. Mr Smith gave special attention to the manufacture of copper, sheet iron and tinware in all forms, especially for spouting and roofing. He was also agent for the world renowned Fairbanks scales.

The Prairie City Stove Works was established in 1872 by Ball & King. Mr Ball sold out to Mr E J King in 1876. Here the famous "Prairie City" wood cook stove and the "Belle" coal cook stove were made. The stove works was located on the corner of First and Eagle streets and hired 20 men. The stoves were sold by R L Ball at 303 Main street. Mr King also manufactured a very popular heating stove. His business was estimated at \$20,000 in 1877.

The proprietors of the Eagle Iron Works J A and T W Parker bought their business from William J Ball & Co in 1871. It was first established in the 1840's, one of the oldest in the State. In 1877 some 50 skilled workmen were employed and the firm was doing an annual business of from \$140,000 to \$150,000. They manufactured steam engines, coal shafts, flour and saw mill machinery, bank cars, testing drills, steel and cast iron scrapers, canemills, railroad crossings, frogs, etc., and were also agents for Knowles steam pump and Rues patent injector.

Cliff & Son Boiler Manufacturers was established in 1867 and ten years later was the largest such firm in the State. Its works were located on Scott First street, between Walnut and Poplar and gave employment to 35 men turning out from \$35,000 to \$40,000 worth of work annually. This firm is still in business in Terre Haute today.

The Hub, Spoke, Felloe and Wheel Factory, corner of First and Poplar streets, was established in 1865 by S H Thompson and H Keyes. Under

the firm name of Thompson & Keyes they employed a capital of \$15,000 and worked some 20 men doing a successful business until 1872 when Mr Thompson retired and John H Sykes became a partner under the firm name of Keyes & Sykes. New machinery was introduced and a specialty made of the manufacture of "Keyes" Patent Wheel. But they continued the making of all wheel material as usual. From this time on the business rapidly increased and extended until their wheel could be found in nearly every State in the Union. The old quarters which were ample in 1865 became too cramped and inconvenient, so they built a new building on N 13th St. Bellevue Place, of sufficient capacity to work 200 hands and occupying in all several acres. The original capital doubled several times, and the work force had grown to eighty. Special attention was given to the preparation of the choicest material for wheels which were made of second growth hickory. They kept on hand over a half million spokes in various stages of preparation and turned out daily about fifty sets of buggy wheels and 6,000 to 7,000 spokes with hubs and felloes in proportion.

Another large manufacturing firm in Terre Haute in 1877 was the Clift & Williams Planing Mill and Manufacturers of Sash, Doors and Blinds, located at 129 N 9th St. They occupied two large two-story buildings, one 75x85 feet, the other 20x70 feet, and 100 feet of lumber sheds. Mr W S Clift established the business in 1864, Mr Williams coming in March, 1865. They had the very latest machinery in wood-working and turned out first class work. Using the very best well-seasoned lumber, the forty skilled workmen turned out from \$75,000 to \$100,000 worth of work per year.

In 1877 none of the manufacturing establishments in Terre Haute ranked higher than the Wabash Woolen Mills. G F Ellis, proprietor, wool dealer and wholesale

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manufacturer of woollens. The main building was 36x141 feet, three stories high and an L-shaped addition 40x40 feet. Three sets of 48-inch cards, 1164 spindles, and 20 looms were run, all of the latest make, having a capacity for making 200,000 yards per year. The office and salesroom adjoining the factory were located on the corner of First and Walnut street, of brick, 22x65 feet and two stories high. The first floor was used for retailing, and the office and second story for wholesale. At that time Mr. Ellis was credited with 45 years of practical experience in the business.

Miller & Arleth, makers of Collars, Saddles and Harness, occupied a large three-story building at 17 S. 4th St., 26x80 feet for storage and salesroom, and an adjoining building 18x50 feet for workshops. Established in 1855 by Mr. Miller, it soon became necessary to take in a partner, and in 1873 Mr. Charles Arleth entered the firm. In 1877 they were hiring 20 workmen to manufacture harness and saddles of every known variety and style to be sold throughout Indiana and Illinois. The making of horse collars was their leading business.

Clark, Dorothy

Historically

Community Affairs File

Speaking

Ts FEB 22 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Now that sugar prices are squeezing moonshiners out of business, it's fun to look back on this way of life that began back in 1789 in Kentucky when Elijah Craig is supposed to have set up the first still. Or maybe even earlier when two copper stills with a capacity of 40 gallons each were brought to Kentucky on horseback prior to 1781. Truly a Bicentennial event to celebrate!

So many of the early settlers of the Wabash Valley came from Kentucky and many of them brought their moonshining skills with them. People didn't have a way of making a living except farming, so they made moonshine and took it to the towns and mining camps and sold it for ready cash. Later, during Prohibition, they sold it to bootleggers.

Moonshine usually referred to illegally produced pure corn whiskey, but has been applied to other illegally produced beverages, such as rum, cordials, brandy, vodka and gin. During prohibition, it also included wine and beer.

Two or three men are needed to run a still, but one can do it with a lot of work. Since most moonshiners didn't have much money, they made their own stills from ordinary items they already had. One simple still can be made by inverting a half-barrel or an old wooden churn over a soap kettle. By doing this, they would only have to buy a piece of copper tubing for the worm.

One recipe for moonshine goes like this:

Take corn meal and flour and malt corn. You had to sprout your corn, grind it and put it in a big barrel. Put your water in it, get some hot water and work up your meal in there. Then fill up your tubs and stir it all up good. Put a top on it to keep stuff out of it and leave it until it worked off. Then you boiled it off and made your liquor.

Unscrupulous moonshiners sometimes added such things as washing lye, pepper, ginger, tobacco, and even buckeyes to hasten the process and produce a stronger taste; some even believed adding yeast to hasten fermentation ruins the taste of the liquor.

The corn used for moonshine is forced to sprout by keeping it wet and warm for two or three days. It is then dried and ground into meal. The meal is made into mush with boiling water and let stand for two or three days. The mash is broken up and rye malt is added. Fermentation begins which continues for eight to ten days. This can be hastened by adding yeast. This produces the sour mash which is commonly referred to as beer or wash. This is placed in the still, under which a wood fire is built. It vaporizes and then is condensed in the cold worm. The copper worm is surrounded by a closed jacket through which cold water is constantly passing. This liquor from the singlings (first distillation which is weak and impure). This redistillation is called the doublings. The final process is

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to run the liquor through a rude charcoal filter to rid it of fusel oil.

Whiskey was made out of rye in other areas, but when corn was plentiful, that was the source. Apple brandy was made from crushed and soured apples put into the still.

In 1908 it had been suspected for some time that the town of Shelburn, Ind., was not as "dry" as the temperance people thought, and as the liquor people would like to have the temperance people think.

In spite of investigation and raids, there were rumors that one could get a glass of liquor at any time if one only had the "high sign." That was the important point — the high sign. Two Sullivan temperance workers went to Shelburn to investigate. One of the men obtained the high sign from a former drinking companion and went into a drug store.

"Give me a Hymera," he said. "Hymera is a small town about four miles from Shelburn."

"A what?" asked the clerk, apparently puzzled.

"A Hymera."

The clerk looked at the man for a minute. "Can't do it tonight. Haven't anything to make it out of."

"Psst! Come on through," said the temperance man.

The clerk said nothing further, but turned and went behind the counter. In a moment he returned and set before his customer a glass of rye whiskey. The high sign had done the work.

He left the store and went to another drug store. There much the same performance was gone through with, except that he called for a "Dugger" instead of a "Hymera." "Dugger" is another small town near Shelburn. In this case, it got him a glass of Scotch whiskey.

The names of the towns were the keys to the situation and the temperance workers came back with enough information to justify charges which they placed before the

grand jury at the next session.

Fifty-six years ago, Jan. 16, 1920, John Barleycorn made his last will and testament. The Anti-Saloon League wished every man, woman and child a happy New Dry Year. Jubilant temperance leaders gathered in churches and auditoriums from coast to coast to hold watch night services. The WCTU hailed prohibition as "God's present to the Nation." These lady crusaders, popularly known as "White Ribboners," dedicated themselves to drying up the rest of the world.

Those of us who can remember the days of home brew, bathtub gin and other measures to offset Prohibition, hope such a law is never allowed to pass again to let loose gangsters, bootleggers and all the evils of drinking unsafe booze. Here's one rhyme that tells the humorous side of the times.

Mother's in the kitchen
Washing out the jugs.
Sister's in the pantry
Bottling the suds.
Father's in the cellar
Mixing up the hops.
Johnny's on the front porch
Watching for the cops."

And how many readers remember grocery stores displaying great pyramids of malt syrup cans, hops, wort, yeast, bottles, crown caps, capping machines, rubber hosing, alcohol gauges and other paraphernalia for home brewing? And the time a batch of home brew was set using raisins? And what a kick it had!

It was Spinoza who said: "All laws which can be broken without any injury to another are counted but a laughing stock, and are so far from bridling the desires and lusts of men, that on the contrary they stimulate them. For we are ever eager for forbidden fruit, and desire what is denied. Nor do idle men ever lack ability to elude the laws which are instituted about things, which cannot absolutely be forbidden."

Historically Ts SEP 12 1976 Speaking

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



During the year 1898, the new Merchant's Distillery was the largest building erected in Terre Haute. The new company was formed in New York in August, and the contract was let for building the new plant and work begun on September 10.

Fred B. Smith, of this city, and George E. Emmitt, of Pekin, Illinois, were the acting managers of the concern, with Mr. Smith as president. The new company was incorporated for \$300,000 and planned to erect a 5,000 bushel distillery.

The buildings included a distillery proper, a warehouse, and a dry-house. The largest building was five stories high, some stories being as high as 24 feet and other less. In all, the height was 83 feet. Ground dimensions were 138 by 260 feet.

The warehouse was 90 by 200 feet, part of it two stories high. The dryhouse was 52 by 82 feet and two stories high. The building was built of brick furnished by various local brick making concerns.

The general contract was let to August Fromme for \$65,000. The wood work was done by Central Mfr. Company, with the lumber being furnished by Fromme from his own lumber yards. The ironwork was done at Parker's foundry, and the roof was put on by Simmons of Indianapolis.

NEW STORES

While the distillery was being built, downtown improvements were underway. The store at 628 Wabash Avenue, owned by Susan K. Francis and occupied by the new firm of dry goods merchants, Levering & Son, was being enlarged and modernized with a new front with lights above of prism glass, and refitting and refurnishing in general.

The building permit of \$2,500 included the services of Charles E. Scott, architect, and mill work by Clift, Williams & Company.

The Golden Rule store on Main Street, which belonged to the John O'Boyle heirs, was also thoroughly remodeled during 1898 for Manager Schultz into a modern store.

Architect C. E. Scott planned the improvements, while general contract work was done by W. F. Maurer on a bid of \$2,400. Papering, steam heating, etc., ran the expense up to about \$3,000.

They lowered the floor, putting on a new front and building an addition in the

rear. Prox & Brinkman put in the steam heating plant; Freitag & Weinhardt put in the plumbing and gas, while Mr. Schultz added electricity at his own expense.

On Sept. 10, 1898, the Kleeman Dry Goods Company opened their new store at Sixth and Main streets. The old Beach Block had been remodeled to accommodate the new firm by Floyd & Stone, architects, for W. R. McKeen, property owner. Here again the contractor was August Fromme.

The Kleeman brothers, Samuel E. and Phil S., came here from Shelbyville, Illinois, in 1890 and opened a dry-goods store at 416 Main on March 22. Their business was so successful that three weeks later they leased the adjoining room, and continued until they were able to move into the new quarters.

MAUSOLEUM

Among the structures built in Terre Haute in 1898 was a temple to the dead in Highland Lawn Cemetery for D. W. Minshall. Located just to the north of the center of the cemetery near the main driveway, the mausoleum is ten feet high, with 14 by 18 foundations of solid concrete five feet deep. Built of white Barre granite from Vermont, it is an imposing example of Romanesque style of architecture.

The entrance to the tomb is closed by double doors, the inside one being a solid block of granite, and the outside a beautiful piece of solid brass work made especially for Mr. Minshall at the Hazeldine machine shop. It is a heavy grilled door with a huge brass lock, one of the most beautiful pieces of such work ever made in this city. In summer, the granite door was swung back leaving the entrance barred by the brass grillwork and letting in the sunshine to dispel dampness.

The interior of the mausoleum is lined with white polished marble. The floor of the front chamber is laid with fine white tile made by Indianapolis Encaustic Company. The walls and faces of the crypts are lined with white Georgia marble.

In all there are twelve crypts, opening with marble doors. The partitions between the crypts are of two-inch marble.

The roof is composed of three huge stones, the largest being 16 by 20 feet, and the three weighing from 10 to 15

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tons each. It was found necessary to construct special wagons to haul these stones to the cemetery.

The walls are very thick, but are built hollow, and are pierced by vents, planned to give a regular circulation of air and prevent accumulation of moisture.

The contract was let to the Terre Haute Stone Company on June 23 for \$8,000. Almost four months were consumed in cutting the stone before erection was actually begun at the cemetery on Oct. 15, 1898. Floyd & Stone, architects, designed the monument for Minshall.

It's amazing how much work was available for architects and contractors during 1898. M.N. Diall hired them to plan the improvements on his South Seventh street home to the tune of \$2,500. Nearly every wall was torn down and archways and sliding doors put in instead of the old-fashioned ones.

A new set of front and back stairs were installed, and a back hall built with a china closet built into the pantry. The whole interior of the house was rearranged and refitted in oak and mahogany, the windows enlarged, and a complete system of modern plumbing and heating put in by Prox & Brinkman.

Since Diall had no use for electricity (he was president of the gas company) the gas lights were still used. Two bay windows on each side were installed, and a large porch was built across the front.

It was very necessary to keep up with the Jones in those days, just as it seems to be 79 years later.

TS MAR 13 1977

Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Magwire & Yeakle, House and Sign Painters, were located at 12 S. 8th Street in 1877. They advertised that they could "execute anything asked for in their speciality of fancy lettering, sign painting and graining in the highest style of art."

James Paxton, Dealer in Books, Stationery, Etc., 607 Main Street, was under the management of James M. Naylor, "a gentleman of large experience in the business." Here could be found the latest publications, pictures, frames, brackets, every type of stationery, and stereoscopic glasses and views.

Roseman & Borssum, Merchant Tailors, were located at 233 S. 6th Street. They had been educated in their business from boyhood up, and had gained a thorough practical knowledge of it in the larger European cities before coming to this city.

In 1868 they opened up a shop in Terre Haute and had soon achieved an annual business ranging from \$12,000 to \$15,000. They employed eight workmen, and kept on hand a full line of the finest imported and domestic goods for gentlemen's wear.

David S. Danaldson, 228 1/2 Main Street, was the oldest military claim agent in the State, having been engaged in the business since 1847. He was described as the best in western Indiana.

One of the leading insurance, loan and real estate agencies of the city in 1877 was the firm of Wharton & Riddle. William Berry Wharton and J. Irving Riddle were pioneer accident insurance agents in the Midwest. Their office was located in the Beach Block, southeast corner of 6th and Main.

Harry Wigley had been connected with the newspaper and job printing interest here since 1862. About July 1, 1875, George H. Hebb and Harry A. Wigley formed a partnership and purchased the job rooms of the DAILY EXPRESS Printing Company.

On July 26, 1876, Mr. Hebb retired, and Mr. Wigley took over. He operated one of the largest job printing houses in the city at 15 S. 5th Street, known as Printing House Square, in the DAILY EXPRESS building. The 1876-77 city directory was cited as an example of his fine work.

Little is known about Eph. Confare, undertaker, at 811 Main Street, described as "one of the largest establishments of

its kind in the State, occupying two floors, 20 by 160 each."

The advertisement went on to state, "Mr. Confare has had 15 years experience in his business, polite and attentive, and ready at all hours of the day or night to attend to his customers. He carries an extensive stock of all the latest styles and varieties, consisting of wood and metallic burial cases and caskets."

Cal Thomas, watchmaker and optician, came to Terre Haute in 1873. He had devoted 23 years exclusively to his profession, and had invented many valuable improvements in tools and machinery for his business. He was supposed to have had the finest regulator in the city, giving the correct time for three different meridians, and was employed by the Vandalia Line to regulate the time and keep in repair their numerous station clocks.

As an optician, Mr. Thomas was credited with fitting spectacles with lens made by grinding, not melting glass. He also did engraving, resetting diamonds, pearls, rubies,

garnets, etc., in rings, single or clusters. He made mates to sleeve buttons or earrings, and repaired all kinds of jewelry. He was located at 527 Main Street, behind his "big man with watch" sign.

A fairly new firm in 1877 was Foley Bros., dealers in hats, caps and furs, at 405 Main Street. Their stock was described as being the "nobbist in their line."

Another merchant tailor in 1877 was Phillip Schloss, 420 Main Street. He had established his business here in 1867, and it had grown to employing thirty workmen and an annual business of \$80,000 to \$100,000. Much of his success was credited to his accomplished cutter, Baldwin Kloer.

The firm of Miller & Cox, clothiers and merchant tailors, 522 Main Street, came to this city in 1870. Both men had been born and raised as neighbors in Racoon township, Parke county. Their motto was "quick sales and small profits."

J. C. Kelly, one of the largest coal operators in the city, had offices at 101 and 945 Main Street. One of the oldest citizens here in 1877, Mr. Kelly had arrived in 1835. He had averaged over 100 carloads of coal per month during 1876, and was opening a mine of his own at Brazil to help him meet ever increasing demands.

After years of patient labor and great expense, W. E. Hen-

drich, local attorney, had secured a complete title abstract of all the real estate in Vigo county. In 1877 he was the man to see about questionable titles or real estate transfers. The office is still available in the court house basement a century later.

Civil Engineer Richard Strout was first employed here as superintendent of the Wabash & Erie Canal. After service in the Civil War, he returned to Terre Haute and was elected City Engineer 1867-77. During this time he furnished the city with a badly needed book of city grades. He was available for employment in 1877.

The large and elegant establishment of Buntin & Armstrong, Druggists and Manufacturing Pharmacists, located at 600 Main Street, was the leading retail and prescription filling business in town. In the spring of 1872, they began making medical preparations of elixirs, syrups, wines and lozenges, and exhibited them before the American Medical Society at their annual meetings in 1874 and 1875, and the state medical societies of Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky. Their venture was so successful that they were employing ten men and boys and doing sales business of over \$35,000 in 1877. Buntin was a graduate of the Philadelphia Pharmacy.

Alexander & Company, wholesale dealers in liquors, cigars and oysters at 612 Main Street, had bought out T. J. Langford in 1873. They were reported to be doing a \$40,000 business in 1877.

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—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Clark, Dorothy J.

Business, shopping trends at the turn of century

Community Affairs File

TS DEC 18 1977



A full-page advertisement in the Dec. 17, 1898, edition of the Terre Haute Gazette described the Havens & Geddes Company as "the big store, Terre Haute's great shopping headquarters," where suggestions for Christmas shoppers included "everything from a toy or piece of cut glass to an elegant piece of furniture."

The newspaper page was bordered with holly leaves and berries and carried a picture of Santa Claus filling a Christmas stocking for a small child.

Illustrations of 1898 included line drawings of Santa Claus holding up the latest shoe fashions, stacks of blankets and toys.

Ladies hats were large and pinned to high-piled hairdos with hatpins. Feathers, furbelows and veils completed the fancy structures.

Dresses touched the floor, had leg-of-mutton sleeves, and tiny waists.

Men's fashions in 1898 included moustaches, long, full hair styles (much like today's) and suits with vests (just as in 1977).

Children were miniature editions of their overdressed parents.

New furniture then is the antique or collectible furniture of today, but the prices were much lower.

"Chamber suits" ranged from \$13.88 to \$45. Oak or mahogany rockers were \$1.98. Combination bookcases in solid oak sold for \$5.65 to \$22.

You could purchase six oak dining room chairs for \$4.86 and oak stand tables ranged from \$2.50 to \$12.50.

Iron beds were only \$2.25 to \$12; large dining tables with five enormous carved legs cost \$3.48 to \$25; couches, \$4.48 to \$20.

Fine leather rockers sold for \$16 to \$27, and sideboards were reduced for sale to \$9 to \$35.

China and music cabinets, fine parlor tables, dressing tables were available in oak, birdseye maple, mahogany and birch.

An extra special Colonial style, quarter-sawn oak bedroom suite was on sale for half price, \$40.

The clearance sale on men's underwear offered plain and fancy grey mixed.

brown fleeced, fancy blue mixed fleeced, all-wool fancy striped, natural wool or blue derby ribbed from 25 to 45 cents.

Holiday silk umbrellas with handles of Dresden, ivory pearl, sterling silver, natural stick, complete with gold trim, silk tassels and cases ranged from \$1 to \$5.50.

Three brands of sewing machines were on sale, Wheeler and Wilson, New Home and Expert.

Holiday travelers could purchase bargains in luggage, steamer trunks, telescopes, gladstones, valises and suit cases.

Holiday books included the classic books of Louisa M. Alcott, padded leather tomes of poetry, bird books and albums.

Waterman and Wirt fountain pens were big in 1898, as were Archerana, Spider and Fly, Cronirole, Parchese, Base Ball, Pillow Dex, Authors and other card games.

Millinery ranged from a 69 cent woolly tam for the child to a Knox hat for a lady costing \$2.50. A 55-inch feather boa sold for under \$5.

Mixed candy was only seven cents a pound, French bonbons, nut candies and taffies sold for 15 cents, and the finest French chocolates for 25 cents a pound. This is what they mean when they say "those good old days."

All china dinner sets were twenty percent discounted. Sets of 100 pieces of brown or blue decorated china sold for as low as \$6; Dresden at \$8.40; green Holland pattern with gold trim for \$10.40 and Carlsbad Wreath pattern at \$22.40.

Silk, mull, lace and net neckwear for ladies was a popular gift item, as were fancy aprons, perfumes, hair combs, fancy garters, celluloid jewelry and toilet boxes, hat pins, sterling desk accessories and jewelry.

Toys of 1898 included iron trains, 25 cents up; doll dishes, Filescope blocks, money banks, blackboards, tables, doll cabs, trumpets, Uncle Sam toys, pinpaint boxes, iron stoves, 25 cents to \$5; and tin kitchens, wash sets, tool boxes and mechanical toys.

Candle holders for the Christmas tree were five

cents a dozen and candles sold for 10 cents a box of 48.

All of this inflammable stock fed the disastrous fire two days later when the Havens & Geddes store on the northeast corner of Fifth and Main burned on Dec. 19, 1898.

An unusually large crowd was in the store because of the advertisement announcing that Santa Claus would greet the children in the basement toy store.

The first inkling that something was wrong was the sound of running feet on the floor above.

A spark from a light in the window display touched the inflammable cotton balls used to represent snow by the window trimmer.

The fire quickly spread to nearby draperies, ribbons, laces and silks and ran out of control to nearby buildings.

Hampered by a highwind, the firemen were overcome by the dense smoke. Only those on the main floor got out safely.

Those on the second floor, not so fleet of foot, were forced to jump and were killed.

Claude Herbert, the young man representing Santa, was responsible for leading many to safety when they panicked and couldn't help themselves.

Playing the hero, he went back into the burning building to look for any stray children and was overcome with smoke and fumes.

His body was recovered days later.

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Brickyards of yore were 'kitchens' with corn, giant catfish and gar

Community Affairs File

Back in the Eighties, from the river bridge at Main street (now Wabash Ave.), down to Horseshoe Bend (the site of Old Terre Haute), there were no factory buildings, excepting the old gas works at the foot of Walnut street.

There were several brickyards located on the east bluff, where the brick for buildings and sidewalks were made. The Ross and the Sudbrink yards at Washington Avenue were well known. The Charles Hoff yard was at Osborne street; the Ascherman yard farther down the Prairieton road, near where the Weston Paper plant is now.

On the north side of the river bridge, back of Woodlawn cemetery, were other yards for the making of brick. These brick were called soft brick, but the Hoff yard was also making a pressed brick, a smooth, harder variety.

Many of our vintage buildings were constructed of these pressed brick. The Washington Avenue Presbyterian church is one example. Although not as good quality as the later shale brick, they served their purpose.

The clay for the early brick was procured from the river bottom land. For a long stretch, the bottom was fairly level terrain brought about by the scouring action of swiftly flowing river water during the annual river freshets. These spring floods kept the land free of tall weeds and mowed down other obstructions.

It was here the brick makers dug out the blue clay from which the brick were made. The top soil was removed, and the clay was exposed. The deposits often ran eight to ten feet deep. A hole twenty feet in diameter was dug and the clay loaded in wagons and hauled to the yard, where it was placed in a grinding machine of which there were several kinds.

The clay was mixed with water and stirred to the proper consistency for handling. The machine which ground the clay was motivated by horse power. The prepared mud was then pressed into a mold of eight bricks capacity, and taken by the off-bearer to the drying yard, a leveled off plot of ground covered with a layer of fine sand.

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When the hot summer sun had sufficiently hardened, or cured, the brick, they were turned over to dry the bottom side. Then they were "ricked" until fall for the burning process.

The brick were racked into a kiln, with places provided for the burning of many cords of long firewood. It required several weeks of firing properly to burn a kiln of brick. A false wall of burned brick at each end of the kiln provided a place for burning the sand which was used in the drying process.

In the process of drying, this sand was also a dandy place to roast ears of corn with the husks on. Roasting ears, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes, along with butter and salt, made tasty eating.

After the clay was dug out, the holes were abandoned, and when the river rose in freshet, they filled with water—and fish. Here a small boy learned to swim and catch fish. Quite often a large fish was caught, but more often they were small catfish and other varieties of river fish.

In winter weather these clay pits would freeze, and the grocery and meat dealers were able to cut and store a summer's supply of ice in their own bins or ice houses. Of inferior quality, this ice could be used only for cooling purposes. A better grade of ice could be harvested from the river, but it was more hazardous to cut and store.

Prior to the construction of the dam at Mt. Carmel, the Wabash river provided excellent fishing. On summer evenings the banks would be filled with entire families engaged in

fishing.

Good catches were generally made, and it was not unusual for an expert angler to catch a hundred channel cats, eight to twelve inches long, in a couple of hours. These catfish were the easiest to catch. However, a big bass was hooked once in a while.

But the big catches were made with "trot" lines and nets. There were many market fishermen, and they caught a great many fish every day or night.

Ben Adams netted a catfish that weighed 160 pounds. It was almost seven feet in length. Chopped off with an axe, the huge head remained alive for more than ten hours. It became a local curiosity. The body was cut into inch-thick slices and peddled for ten cents a pound.

Many other big catfish were caught by these professional fishermen who made a very good living. The long gravel bar located at the foot of Hulman street provided a good place for gigging fish when it was covered with a foot or two of water.

The old lard oil type gigging lamp was used until the gasoline torches used by street corner vendors became popular. They made a better light and didn't smoke so much. Big buffalo fish were usually snagged as they were the easiest to see. Gigging is illegal now.

There were many eels in the river, and if one chanced on a cluster of them, they were easily caught. Eels tangled themselves into a cluster with their heads sticking out. If an eel was caught, the fisherman would place the next bait in about the same spot and would catch another and so on. In this way it was possible to catch a dozen or more.

Shovelfish or sturgeon were plentiful, and were good eating. The hard outer shell was removed, the spinal cord pulled out, and the fisherman had a fine mess of fish without bones. The roe was also considered a delicacy.

An occasional muskie was hooked by a lucky angler. There were gars and turtles in the river, but they did not bother the angler much. In the ponds, however, they were a pest. Snappers and soft shell turtles were good eating, but gars were good only for "trot" line bait. The firm white flesh was especially attractive to catfish.

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Historically Speaking

Ts MAR 16 1980

By Dorothy Clark



Links in the chain link chain of events — linked

Way back in the 1890s when Americans were humming the strains of "She's Only A Bird In A Gilded Cage," two enterprising Midwestern farmers were working on a "gilded cage" of their own device that would revolutionize the fencing industry in this country. In 1897, the Hohulin brothers wove and erected the first American chain link fence on their

Illinois farm.

It's especially appropriate that this history-making event occurred in the land of Abe Lincoln, the famed master fence builder. For the Hohulin brothers were just the beginning of a great chain reaction that is still in progress today. As a result, chain link has become one of the most widely used fencing materials in America

for both residential and industrial applications.

Actually, the history of chain link began in Germany where it was reportedly invented in 1859. The concept of wire fencing was then brought to America by several different people who settled in different parts of the country. Even before the Hohulin brothers conducted their experiment in Illinois, other private entrepreneurs were exploring the possibilities elsewhere. Each one fostered his own variation on the metal wire fencing theme. But only the Hohulins had real chain link — and even they didn't know it yet!

The Last Link

Then in the early 1900s the last link was established. An astute branch manager associated with one of the pioneer firms — the Anchor Post Company of New York — spotted a unique metal wire fence in Hartford, Conn., made by hand-operated machines. He recommended it to his superiors who adopted the style, assigned it the name "chain link" and added motors to the hand machines.

Meanwhile, a man in Boston received a 1905 patent for a new bed spring, which, except for the selva, was identical to the product we call chain link today. By 1914, he was using the bed spring machines to make fences instead. The rest is history. Soon, companies all over the nation were mechanically weaving miles of fences from galvanized wire.

Little did the Hohulin brothers realize that their innovative invention for keeping the cows on the farm would mark the beginning of a trend that would extend chain link from coast to coast. Today, it lines our interstate highway system, protects our factories and beautifies millions of American homes.

Chain Link of Events

By the 1900s chain link was very popular with the very rich, who wanted privacy and protection for their large estates. Though a limited market, it was enough to give the industry its start.

Then came WWI and widespread sabotage scares. An alternative to wood fencing was needed to protect America's vital industrial plants and chain link was the answer. It was fireproof and allowed increased visibility for greater security. Soon the industrial business was booming and growth began.

As the '20s roared in, the chain link industry was still a fledgling in many ways. Each company featured a unique product, though the basic design

(over)

was the same. But during the decade a need was seen for industry-wide standardization. Meeting with federal officials, fence companies agreed on standards for chain link fabric specifications.

Then in 1923, one company surprised the industry by introducing something revolutionary — a chain link fence galvanized after weaving. Everyone scrambled to learn how it was done and this new technique brought about more progress. Basic raw material switched from galvanized wire to black wire, with galvanizing after production the predominant method of manufacture.

Depression Changes

During the '20s, the estate market peaked, then began to fade away as the income tax took its toll on the very rich. But the industrial market continued to strengthen until suddenly the depression struck! Orders fell off and factory workers made chain link fencing only two or three days a week.

In spite of the downtrend in the early and mid-1930s, the late '30s

brought the largest jobs to that date for chain link. There were several jobs awarded to line both sides of a California aqueduct, the largest running up to 100 miles of fence.

WWII gave the economy a lift, and by 1941, fence manufacturers had more orders than they could handle. New priorities were issued. Defense plants were required to fence, with strict limitations on materials. There were cutbacks — painted wooden posts instead of steel, lighter wire, etc. And if products weren't earmarked for the military, they just weren't manufactured.

Chain link machines were set aside while factories converted to making bomb fins, wire for shrapnel, life raft parts and war materials.

Housing boomed and chain link boomed with it following WWII. Then came the Korean Police Action and materials became short, but the fence business boomed. The interstate highway program gave chain link another boost.

Aluminum casting began to appear in the '50s, along with vinyl-coated, and wire sizes and meshes lightened up. The residential market was strong in the '60s and highways took more and more fencing.

Today there are probably more miles of chain link fence used than all other types of fencing combined. Has any industrious collector begun his work of gathering up all the different types of chain link fencing since its inception in 1859?

Local energy — from woman-, wind- water- power to dogpower, gas, oil, coal

The local energy story begins with man- (or woman-) power in the Wabash Valley...probably with the Indian squaws. Goodness knows the men weren't too energetic. They went hunting and fishing, and chipped at flint to make arrow heads.

It was the squaw who planted small crops of beans, squash, corn, cooked the game and fish, tanned the deerskin, made clothing and tent shelters, in addition to all the usual women's work like rearing children, etc.

However, their ideas of cooking took little energy. The Indians ate grubs and grasshoppers raw. Cooking was done over open fires or in the hot ashes. If they had clay pots of water, they would pull hot stones out of the fire and plunk them in to heat the water faster. They pulled only the biggest feathers off the turkeys, prairie chickens and other fowl and plopped the bird in the pot, feet, head and insides all intact. The cooking time was usually brief as the hungry family picked out pieces and ate them half raw.

New ways arrived

This white man brought new ways, new demands for power sources when he arrived. First came the mill to use water power for grinding corn and later wheat...a decided improvement over the Indian method of pounding between two rocks. The white man also used the ground grain to make booze to combat the ever present snakes of pioneer Indiana. The same water power and mill were used to saw lumber for building purposes.

Along the Wabash River were found coal deposits where the current washed into the steep banks. Slope mines were the first, then came the deep shaft mines. The entire Wabash Valley was dotted with thriving coal mines, and this energy fuel was used for everything from home heating stoves to furnaces, even the largest factories in the area.

Iron deposits were found here; iron works were set in operation, but this did not prove as profitable due to shipping problems. It was not a very good grade of iron ore anyway, said to be good for rusting only by some.

Natural gas was discovered here at a very early date. This source of energy was used for several glass manufacturing plants here. The city used natural gas for street lighting and the lighting of homes and businesses until it slowed, and then artificial gas was manufactured as a substitute. The first gas pipes were laid in 1857 on the east side of South Sixth Street, but the larger gas mains were put down in 1856. The gas house was located at Sixth and Canal.

Oil was discovered here very early by the Indians who used it for external medicinal uses. Many early settlers found it running out of their land in pools and didn't know what to do with it. It had no use in those days except as lubrication of wagon wheels, etc. It smelled horribly, was messy and dirty, and was something to keep the livestock and kids away from.

Wanted water, got oil

Some who drilled for water got oil instead. For example, Chauncey Rose needed more water for the Prairie House (where the Terre Haute House is now). With his usual luck, the drillers struck a gusher of oil instead of good water. He was furious! The oil was capped off, but the sulphur water from higher up the drilling was used for a bathhouse. But that caused the silverware to tarnish, so he had that capped off also.

Several oil wells were pumping away in what is now downtown Terre Haute. In 1866 the Cox-Rose well was located on the south line of Cherry Street in the old canal bed. In 1868 the Conant well was on the river bank between Walnut and Poplar streets. Nearly 20 years later, another oil boom in Terre Haute got the people

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all excited. In 1886, the Terre Haute Fuel Gas Company had a well near the river, south of Swan Street (the capped off well can still be seen). In 1889, the Diall Well was located east of the canal, back of the Phoenix Foundry, a little south of Mulberry (building is gone now).

Another well in 1889 was located at Tenth-and-a-half and Chestnut streets. The sulphur water from this well was used for the Exchange Artesian Bath House opposite Union Depot, and the building burned in 1921.

The last operating oil well in Terre Haute was the Foulkes well which was steadily producing 25 barrels a day in 1907. It was located on North Ninth Street, between Cherry and Mulberry, and was 1,625 feet deep. It was torn down in April, 1930.

One can draw a line from the former bath houses on the river at the foot of Swan Street, northeast to Tenth and Chestnut, and you could strike oil, gas or sulphur water. Another dome was located under the campus of Indiana State University, from about Tenth and Mulberry, west to Third Street. Several capped-off oil wells were encountered in the construction of the Hulman Civic University Center between Eighth and Ninth, and Cherry and Eagle streets.

Oil wells were mainly used for kerosene or coal oil in the early days. Railroads used coal-burning engines; gasoline-burning autos, trucks and buses were yet to be invented, and airplanes and rockets to the moon were only dreams.

Wood and coal-burning stoves heated homes and furnished means for cooking and baking. Kerosene was the only derivative of crude oil of use

to the people for lamp lighting.

With electricity came the big need for coal to make the electric power, and now we can't seem to live without coal and oil. Electric power has become our master, and gas for the family car is of prime importance. Hayburning horses pulling buggies and wagons are gone forever, and probably the street cleaners are glad of that.

Two other sources of early energy need to be mentioned—the windmills which pumped water on the farm, and the animal power other than horses, mules and oxen. There was a scissors grinder located east of the present Hulman building on Wabash Avenue. He had a treadmill which powered a large wheel to turn his grinding equipment. On a given signal, two huge dogs in the lower room would jump on the treadmill and power the wheel. Another shout and they would jump off and wait for their chunk of meat or a juicy bone.

A little farther east on Wabash, there was a butcher shop where the same idea was used to power a sausage grinder. The butcher used a large dog or a goat to run on the treadmill and power this equipment. They were rewarded with food also. Minimum wage laws had not taken effect yet when all this was happening in our town.

Recent severe winters and the Big Blizzard of '78 proved our complete dependence on coal and the men to mine it. With the coming of the new generating plants in the area, King Coal still reigns in the Wabash Valley...in spite of its high sulphur content.

Additional story on Page C11

Growth of industry in early Terre Haute reviewed

Industrial File

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The first glass factory of Terre Haute was located here as early as 1870 near Thirteenth and Crawford streets. Sand, soda, ash, lime and the coloring material were mixed in exact proportions and heated until molten glass was formed. Fruit jars for canning were manufactured here.

The next glass factory to locate in Terre Haute was at Twenty-fifth and Locust streets. They made flint glass (tableware) and bottles the short time they were in operation. Later it was taken over and reorganized by the Turner Brothers.

Under this new management, it became a "12-ring tank" or "12-shop tank" type of operation. The shops were operated double-shift, giving employment to 72 men. There were three men to a shop, and as many boys as men, all working in the furnace division alone. Many others, of course, worked there too—in the office, shipping department, etc. At first the company made its own wooden boxes for shipping, and later made corrugated paper boxes for the purpose.

Produced Fruit Jars

The next factory was located in the fork of the Big Four and C&E.I. railroads, just south of Maple Avenue. It manufactured a very fine grade of fruit jars—all hand work, in the days before machinery. Chapman Root bought this plant, later selling it to the Ball Bros., who dismantled it, even taking the lumber from the warehouse, and moved it to Muncie, Ind. A short time later the remaining factory buildings burned to the ground.

The North Baltimore Glass Company started out here with one furnace, added a second, and finally a third. Mr. Root was employed in the office.

About this time, soft drinks were becoming very popular, and bottles for them were very much in demand. Root built his own glass factory on South Third Street, starting with one furnace, and making beer and soft

drink bottles. Alex Samuelson, general superintendent of the factory, is credited with designing the "coke" bottle so familiar to everyone.

The elderly Turner brothers passed away, and the business was inherited by the family. New capital was brought in which gradually took over controlling interest. In a short time the factory was moved from Terre Haute to the east coast.

In 1914, when all four factories were working here, over 500 journeymen glass workers were employed, and many apprentices were serving four-year apprenticeships at that time.

Older glass blowers could remember the making of window glass. In the early days it was blown in a long cylinder, then held in a very hot furnace while the cylinder was cut open and flattened. Now it's all made by machinery and comes from the annealing ovens in long flat ribbons to be cut off as desired.

Several years ago there were small glass factories dotted all over the Indiana map. Now there are very few. Vincennes had a window glass factory. Terre Haute still has Midland Glass Company on South Third Street.

The rapid growth of the glass manufacturing industry was attributed largely to natural gas. Up to the time of its discovery in Indiana, there were only two plants in the state. The glass industry ranked 17th in Indiana in 1890, but during the next ten years the number of plants jumped from 21 to 116. Over 13,000 persons were employed in glass-making.

The first plate glass manufactured at a profit in the United States was established at New Albany, Ind., about 1870, followed by another plant in Jeffersonville several years later. The first glass factory in Muncie was started in 1889, and then six more located there. Marion, Anderson, Alexandria and Kokomo were among other major glass producers.

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By Dorothy Clark



In the natural gas belt, the plants produced a large variety of goods, including plate and other window glass, cathedral glass, lamp chimneys, lantern globes, fruit jars and tableware. Large shipments were made to Norway and New Zealand.

Indiana's natural gas continued to be discovered and used in the 20th century, but its heyday was over by about 1900. Most of the gas used thereafter came as a by-product of coke-making or from other states by means of pipe lines.

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Ancestors bought *Business (1A)* beef from the hook

The gleaming white refrigerator cases full of individually wrapped cuts of meat in the modern supermarkets of today are certainly a far cry from the early days when our ancestors trudged to the city market or selected their meat from a side of beef hung on a hook outside the shop door. It's no wonder people today are healthier and live so much longer.

Market houses were among our first public buildings. The first one was located at the corner of Ohio and Market streets, now Third and Ohio. It was here that the butcher's trade was first represented in Terre Haute. Each butcher in his clean white apron had his stall in the market house. A long bench served as the counter, and a big round block was used for cutting and chopping the meat.

On market mornings the interior of the buildings and especially the stalls were well lighted with great lamps adorned with huge reflectors. Market mornings came three times a week, beginning very early before daybreak.

The villager with his market basket on his arm could be seen wending his way in the early morning light to the town market where the best cut of meat was available to the earliest arrival.

Earliest Butchers Listed

The first city directory published in 1858 lists seven butchers: Christ Kock, Michael Lamb, George Ohlenslager, Francis Steverson, P. Whiett, Thomas Wahler and Walter S. Cooper.

Cooper's advertisement in the directory was illustrated with an engraving of a sheep. His butcher shop was located on Ohio, between First and Second, in the old Post Office.

Steverson was located on Market street between Wabash and Cherry, one door south of Tolbert's Cigar Store. He used an engraving of a steer. Wahler's advertisement also was illustrated with a beef-producing animal. His shop was located at the corner of Fourth and Wabash, in the rear of the Baltimore Clothing Hall. He offered to deliver meat to any part of town.

Old Butcher Bill

The Wahler family had been in the meat business here since the 1840s. In 1889, the letterhead on their statement read: "Caroline Wahler, Butcher and Sausage Manufacturer. Also, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in all kinds of Fresh, Salt and Smoked Meats, 210 S. Fourth St."

One particular butcher bill was charged to the Theodore Stahl family. Listed on the itemized bill was "veal to boil, 20 cents; pork chops, 20 cents; beef to boil, 20 cents; veal steak, 15 cents, and corned beef, 25 cents."

All this totaled one dollar for a week's supply of meat to feed five people — Mr. and Mrs. Stahl, Ella, their housekeeper, two children, Fred and Maude, and enough scraps for the pet dog, Tippy. Yes, those were the good old days!

historically speaking

By DOROTHY CLARK

Wahler's butcher shop was replaced by Tom Wasmer's barbershop, but the huge iron hooks from which the fresh meat was hung were still in place on the front of the brick building at 210 S. Fourth St.

Here was displayed to prospective customers the sides of beef, pork, dressed chickens and rabbits. Sanitation was almost unheard of, so, in summer the flies swarmed over the meat, and in winter it was speckled with smoke, soot and street dust. Government inspection was still far in the future.

More Early Butchers

Only four butchers were listed in 1863 during the Civil War: G. Ohlenslager, 25 N. Fifth St.; Louis Seeburger, Stall 19 Lower Market and proprietor of a slaughter house on South First Street in Sibley's Addition; Francis Steverson, 2 N. Fourth St.; and Philip Wyatt, on Water Street, between Poplar and Swan, and Stall 1 in Southern Market. The next year Steverson had located his meat market at 122 Main St., on the north side.

Following the war in 1868-69, local butchers were Christian Cook, Fischer and May, Floyd Frederick, S. Fraid and Co., Michael Lamb, J. Layher, Lewis Maater, William Rose, F.J. Rupp, Charles Schwab, Louis Seeburger, Herman Sievers, Steverson and Patton, Voris and Voorhees, Thomas Wahler, Thomas Walker, J.J. Webster, and G.H. Wolfe.

Five years later there were 16 shops. Mrs. C. Cook was located on the northwest corner 11th and Main; E. Elberg, northwest corner Second and Ohio; Ferrell and Lamb, southwest corner Third and Cherry; Charles Flaid, southeast corner 12th and Main, and Peter Horn, west side of Eighth south of Lafayette Avenue.

Also, M. Lamb, 14 S. Fourth; May Bros., southeast corner of Eighth and Main; Patton Bros., west side of Fourth south of Ohio; F.J. Rupp, south side of Main east of Sixth; Adam Schumacker, southeast corner 11th and Main; F. Steverson, west side Sixth between Main and Ohio; L. Seeburger, Fourth Street Market; Jerry Voris, Fourth Street Market; Thomas Wahler, 221 S. First, and G.H. Wolfe, 14 N. Fourth St.

Many local residents are descendants of these early tradesmen. There are still many butchers and meat cutters in the trade today, but their work is all done behind the scenes in clean surroundings and with mechanized equipment. Only the sharp knives and saws and the white aprons remain the same.

Historically Speaking

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Birth of electric transmission of intelligence in Vigo County...

By DOROTHY CLARK

The electric transmission of intelligence began in Terre Haute with the arrival of Reilley's Telegraph line in August, 1850. The office was located at the corner of Market (Third) and Ohio streets.

Ten years later, Philipp Reis, a school teacher in far off Germany, invented the telephone consisting of a transmitter, a receiver and a means of signalling. The most modern of telephones today has nothing more.

Here in America, A.G. Bell, Elisha Gray, A.E. Dolbear, Thomas Edison and others were improving upon the earlier invention of Reis. The receiver of today is substantially that of Dolbear and Dr. William F. Channing, although known by the name of Bell.

The commercial value of the telephone was soon recognized, and in a short time exchanges were set up in the major cities of the United States.

In early 1880, an application for the right to erect poles and wires for this purpose was filed with the Terre Haute City Council. The privilege of operating a system of telephones was granted to Henry A. Kieth and his associates.

The telephone poles had to be at least 25 feet tall, and could not be placed within 35 feet of any lamp post. They were not allowed to block streets or alleys or interfere with drainage. A bond of \$500 was posted and the work began.

The Terre Haute Telephone Exchange was incorporated "to establish, maintain and operate... a system of telephones connected by electrical telegraph wires." The central office was to be connected to telephones located within a five mile radius from the State Normal School (ISU campus).

The capital stock was fixed at \$20,000, divided into 200 shares of \$100 each. The subscribers were W.B. Tuell, H. Hulman and Frank McKeen, with \$5,000 in shares; E.L. Norcross with \$2,000 and John G. Williams with \$3,000.

Probably a dozen or more telephones were then operating in Terre Haute, mainly for the Van-

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dalia Railroad. These were installed by Archie Taylor and Bob Sweeney, railroad telegraph employees.

One of these telephones located at the Vandalia freight house, Tenth and Wabash streets, became No. 1 of the new system, and it operated for 47 years until the cut-over to the automatic system.

Work on the actual building of the exchange started soon after the granting of the franchise, and 19 stations were connected by June 12. By June 17, the Gazette reported 36 business houses had been connected. They included Clift & Williams, National House, George E. Farrington, I. & St. L. R.R. office, C. & E.I. office, the Terre Haute House, Adams Express Co., Mewhinney's Confectionery, H. Hulman, Patton Bros., John Zimmerman, American Express Co., National State Bank, Wright & Kaufman, Western Union Telegraph Co., A.B. Salsich, Joseph Strong, W.B. Tuell, McKeen's Bank and the Vandalia freight depot.

Also, Seath & Hager's car shops, Elevator A, McKeen Bros. Mill, E. &

T.H. freight house, Anton Mayer's brewery, Ohmer's Union Depot Restaurant, C.R. Peddle, Phoenix foundry, Paddock's mill, I. & ST.L. freight house, Hudnut's mill, Wabash Iron Co., Eagle foundry, Thompson's mill, Cox & Fairbank's distillery and Beauchamp & Miller's livery stable.

A month later, July 22, five new subscribers were Ed Gilbert, J. E. Somes, Shelburn Coal Co., the city clerk's office and the chief of police.

The first exchange was located in the upper floor front of the building at the northeast corner of Sixth and Wabash, then at the Buntin Drug Store. The lines were brought over the rooftops to a penthouse on the roof. From there they were brought to the room in which connections were made by Will Ripley from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by Charles H. Wilmoth from 1 to 10 p.m. There was no service from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m.

A short time later, the system was taken over by Central Telephone Co., one of the three elements in the later Central Union Telephone Co.,

and the exchange was moved to the second floor of the Beach block with about 100 telephones in service.

A few years later Ripley was succeeded as manager by E.M. Goodwin Feb. 29, 1884. He moved the office and switchboard to the room recently vacated by the public library on the second floor of the Marble block, later occupied by Meis Bros.

Goodwin was succeeded by Clyde Dunseth, who served until after the removal of the exchange to the second floor of the Kaufman building at Seventh and Wabash in 1896.

Dissatisfaction with the service, coupled with hopes of immense profits to be gained when patent rights were released, led to the incorporation April 6, 1886, of the Citizen's Telephone Co. by Andrew J. Crawford, Andrew Grimes and Joseph H. Briggs. Capital stock was \$25,000.

Fierce rivalry between the two companies caused no end of duplication until 1920 when Central Union sold out to Citizen's Independent Telephone Co.

Meantime, in 1906, the Central Union had moved into the Ohio Street property later occupied by American Telegraph and Telephone Co. with the coming of long distance service in 1892, and the extension of electric light and power services, the old common return or grounded service became obsolete and subscribers were served by two wires each independent of all others, and modern service began.

Finally, in November, 1927, the remaining service of the citizens was cut over to the automatic system, after a half century of progress in telephonic transmission in Terre Haute.

One of the first telephone bills was dated February, 1882. For \$3 the subscriber was privileged to obtain what service he could between his desk and some 100 other telephones, all within five miles of the State Normal School and nowhere else at any price whatever. A far cry from today's direct dialing to any place in the world — a century later.

Vigo County Public Library

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie

Q. I heard that ex-Beatle George Harrison was living in a secluded castle in England. Why is he cutting himself off from the public? Will he still record? P. Larson, Sacramento, Calif.

A. Harrison is living on a 38-acre estate in Oxfordshire, England, in a gargoyled Victorian castle that he says has "too many rooms to count." The desire for privacy is a result of the massive attention he received as a Beatle and, of course, was intensified by the death of John Lennon. Within his fortress-like estate, he spends a great deal of time gardening and hoping that the world will leave him alone. Harrison is still active with his record company, Dark Horse, however, and he does make periodic trips to Los Angeles.



Q. What has Ann Reinking done since "All That Jazz"? Is she still involved with Bob Fosse? Jane H., Metairie, La.

A. Reinking got raves for her dancing in "All That Jazz" and was subsequently cast in Columbia's big-budget production of the musical "Annie." She plays Grace, Daddy Warbucks' secretary, with a flashy production number created just for her and filmed in New York's Radio City Music Hall. As for her social life, her relationship with Fosse had been over for quite a while when "Jazz" was filmed. At this writing, Reinking is romantically involved with the chairman of the board of one of the major movie studios.



Q. Both Lauren Bacall and Jason Robards were on the Tony Awards show. Their marriage ended rather nastily, didn't it? Are they still on speaking terms? J. Hamilton, Birmingham, Ala.

A. Bacall and Robards were married a few years after the death of Humphrey Bogart and have a son, Sam (also an actor). Although their breakup was stormy, they still remain friends. When the two ran into each other backstage at the Tonys, Bacall kissed her ex-husband lightly on the cheek.

Q. Doug Henning was on a talk show and he said he'd been funded to study magic. By whom, some eccentric millionaire? J. Grebey, Galveston, Tex.

A. The Canadian government has underwritten Henning's work. A native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Henning applied for a grant to study parapsychological elements several years back and the government agreed — the first time they'd ever underwritten a study in this field.

Q. I recently saw a picture of John Irving, the writer. He's sexy — is he married? D. Travis, Oak Park, Ill.

A. Irving and his wife, Shyla, a photographer, separated a few years ago after the success of his novel "The World According to Garp" but they are back together now. You're not alone in thinking he's sexy — female interviewers have been known to choke on questions in his presence and memos have circulated at Pocket Books (they publish the paperbacks of his novels) about where and when he's been spotted and how he looked.

Q. My husband is a fight fan and he told me that boxer Mike Weaver got his start by knocking out someone in a bar brawl. Is that true? K. Jorgensen, Puyallup, Wash.

A. It sure is. When Mike was 19, he was in the Marines, and one night in a bar near the base he got into a fight with a loud heckler who turned out to be the Marine boxing team's heavyweight champ. After Weaver KO'd him, he got a call from the team captain asking him to join. His prowess in the armed forces bouts led to his success in the professional boxing world.

Q. I thought I saw Lee Majors the other day talking to some mechanics in my town. What's he doing way out here? H. Gambel, Oklahoma City, Okla.

A. Majors, who is a helicopter pilot in his spare time, bought a helicopter transport company in Enid, Okla., and he's very involved in its operation. He regularly goes out to oversee and make decisions.



Q. Who was the actor who played Harrison Ford's sidekick in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"? Wasn't he in "Shogun"? K. Koen, New York, N.Y.

A. John Rhys-Davies was cast as Sallah in "Raiders" after director Steven Spielberg saw his performance as the mean Portuguese ship captain in "Shogun." Rhys-Davies, a 6-foot-2, 224-pound Welsh actor, remarks, "You either have to be an exceptional actor or have an exceptional physique to progress in films. I have the latter."

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

Mussel diggers worked Indiana rivers

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Mussel diggers have been operating in Indiana waters for many years. The Indians and early settlers made lime from mussel shells after eating them — with relish, from the size of shell mounds found, but they are not appetizing to Hoosiers now. Pollution has had its effect on their flavor and safety.

Pearls have been produced in Indiana from early times and are still being found. Well before the turn of the century, the mussel boys near Vincennes were more interested in finding pearls in the bivalves than they were in eating them or using their shells.

Indiana is largely responsible for the cultured pearl production of the world today. We export mussel shells to Japan. There they are cut into tiny pieces and inserted into oysters where they cause an irritation which forces the oyster to develop a pearl.

Most pearly finds are called "slugs" and they are small, roughly round objects with little value. But fresh water mussels occasionally grow perfect spheres which are quite valuable. During the season, pearls and slugs were sold by the quart. They were found in all sizes and shapes, some as large as a hazelnut. One gang of men shipped away during one year over 250 pounds of pearls, one of which sold for over \$600.

One of the finest known fresh water pearls in the Wabash river back about the turn of the century weighed over 40 grains and was then estimated to be worth about

\$2,000. In those days it was calculated that diggers in the Vincennes area would occasionally find \$200 to \$300 worth of pearls in a single day. For several years it was estimated that "pearl money" circulating in that area amounted to about \$10,000 a month.

When the pearly craze really hit the river towns, there were strange sights to see. In St. Francisville, Ill., one could see dozens of men and boys digging about in the muck of the hog pens along the river hoping to find a stray pearl or slug lost from the mussels that had been fed to the hogs.

Mussels are migratory and continually on the move to find food and the proper type of river bottom on which to thrive. Great shoals of them exist on gravelly river bottoms which they seem to prefer. Mud sometimes covers and destroys them. Over 70 years ago, before some of our streams became open sewers, a mussel shoal of two acres in extent was common.

At almost every point along the Wabash, from Terre Haute to its mouth, could be seen in the mud along the shore jagged lines as if some idler had drawn them with a pointed stick. These lines were the trails of mussels, and at the end of the trails, buried two or three inches in the river bed, they were to be found several feet deep, and in many places they were only inches from the surface. It is this mussel which yielded the pearl.

Old timers gave names to the many varieties of Indiana mollusks. They were called by such pic-

turesque names as mucket, niggerhead, washboard, pigtow, ladyfinger, butterfly, wartback, pistol grip, pocketbook, three-ridge, elephant ear, paper shell and monkey face.

Mussel shells became profitable again when they were used for making buttons. This was a large industry, and Hoosier factories produced shell buttons by the millions. Madison had a plant which employed 60 people and produced some 1,000 gross of buttons each working day. Muscatine, Iowa, was once a big market. Introduction of plastic buttons finished the market for mussel shells until it was learned they were especially desirable to "seed" the Japanese oysters. The last mussel shell button factory was operated in Shoals, Ind.

The actual fishing was done in big John-boats fitted with wooden or metal standards along its gunnels. These held a couple of poles or iron rods about 20 feet long. From these long rods are suspended a lot of cords or chains to which are attached small grappling hooks made of number nine wire, bent or twisted. All this is called a "crowfoot brail" or simply "brail" and it is lowered into the water for hooks to be dragged over the mussel shoals.

Mussels spend much of the time with their shells open and when something touches them they clam up. A brail hook scraping across an open mussel results in the mussel getting caught as it doesn't have enough brain power to open up and release itself.

Brails dragging along the river bottom would stop a boat as it drifts so diggers put a "mule" over the side. This is sort of a sea anchor made of flat metal or wood, weighted and guyed so that it is held vertically in the water. The current then pulls the boat downstream.

After a load of live mussels is procured they are "cooked off." Generally this operation is performed by parboiling the bivalves in a metal trough over a fire. Gunny sacks are thrown over to hold steam and a little of the stewing opens the mussel shells so that the meat (and occasionally a pearl) can be removed. Diggers remove the soft parts and throw them to the buzzards. At this point they sort the shells for market. The odor from an old river-bank mussel camp is something to experience.

Present Indiana market shows that the number one mussel is the maple leaf, followed by three-ridge, washboard and mucket, in that order. Incidentally, the big pearl find was from a three-ridge.

A mussel must be about 12 years old to be of any value commercially (over two inches), and they live to a ripe age if nature and stream pollution permit.

Nelson Cohen's power dredge on the Wabash works upstream. On the east fork of the White river, from below Shoals and up to Fort Ritner, the mussel business is beginning to come back. Several women as well as men are finding it profitable "going to mussel."

Historically speaking

T s AUG 1 5 1982

Lamplighters and gas lights

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

It was in 1957 that the gas light era flickered out for the last time. Not a single city street was illuminated with the soft glow of gas lamps for the first time in 140 years. Baltimore was the last city to use gas for street lighting, and it closed down its last 1,200 lamps to be replaced by electric fixtures.

Because of the high cost of labor to turn these lamps on and off each night and morning, the city left the lights burning around the clock. Many of the picturesque fixtures were purchased by Walt Disney to illuminate a part of Disneyland in California.

The late George A. Scott, local attorney who lived to be over 100 years old, could remember the days of the lamplighter. He told of the gasoline street lights used in the city's outskirts where there were no gas mains. These gasoline lanterns were mounted on wooden posts.

Two gasoline cylinders two inches in diameter and a foot long on top of the lamp held the fuel supply. Young men or boys were employed to make the rounds evening and morning to turn the lights on and

off. They carried little four-foot ladders and a good supply of big matches. At regular intervals the little tanks would have to be filled. These street lamps were located in the tree rows about a block apart, usually near the street corners.

Mr. Scott remembered when coke, the by-product of the gas-making process, was a drug on the market. The public had to be educated to use coke as a furnace fuel for home heating and other purposes. It was not until World War I that coke came to be used locally in any great amount.

The second gas company to locate in Terre Haute made gas from raw coal oil. This was sold for 35 cents per thousand feet. It gave off a bluish light, burned too hot, and did not give as satisfactory a light, even though it was cheaper.

About this time, too, gasoline lamps were used in the homes. They gave off a very bright light, and had the advantage of being portable. They could be carried from room to room and were even used sometimes as yard lights.

The earliest gas companies charged a fee for the kind of burner

used. The charge was 50 cents per month for the smaller size clay burner. For the larger burner which gave off a flame as big as your hand, the charge was one dollar per month. Later the gas companies installed meters and gas could be measured more accurately to be sold at a rate for each thousand feet.

When the gas was selling so cheaply, the owners of a dance hall in the Bindley Building on the south side of Wabash Avenue installed gas stoves for heating purposes. Some of the offices in the building also installed these gas heating stoves.

Since there was no provision made for venting off the fumes properly, they were very dangerous and were not successful. Flues had to be provided before they were allowed to continue operation.

In their day, the gas lights were even called on to tell the time of day. This brief notice was found in a local newspaper of 1858 — "The Rev. A. D. Fillmore will preach at the Christian Church this evening at 6½

o'clock, also on Lord's Day at 10½ o'clock, and in the evening at early gas light."

About 25 years ago an attempt was made to locate all gas lamp posts still in place along city streets. Like fire hydrants, mail boxes and telephone poles, most people walk right past them many times a day and never see them.

Fortunately, some people are more observant than others, and in this way, it was possible to locate several of these forgotten gas lamp posts. One was found at the southeast corner of Third and Swan streets hidden behind a large sycamore tree. Another was found at the northwest corner of Twelfth and Mulberry streets. The third was found, of all places, in the backyard of the Historical Museum, 1411 S. Sixth St., and had been used as a clothes line post.

Others were reported in backyards, used as yard lights, bird house standards, and as grape arbors, still giving service in one way or another after a hundred years.

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Shopping changes

By Dorothy J. Clark

There has always been an element of folksy romance attached to the mail order industry. A uniquely American invention, it was spawned at the end of the 19th century by the confluence of Western expansion, railroad boom, and postal development.

Back in 1872, when its creator, Aaron Montgomery Ward, addressed his first circulars by hand, he accidentally spilled ink on his wife's favorite marble topped table. "Never mind, dear," he consoled her. "Maybe I can make enough out of this thing to buy you a new table." More than a century later, history has confirmed his marketing genius.

A few years later after he published his first catalog, Mr. Ward wrote, "We started this mail order business and made it such a success that there is scarcely a department store in the land which has not tried it too."

Even people who regularly make their purchases in the store appreciate catalogs. They can cut down on shopping time by pre-planning purchases at leisure.

Today, the energy crisis and greater numbers of women in the work force are fueling the surge in mail order sales. About 50 percent of American mothers with school-age children are now working, and for many of them shopping by mail is a time-saving necessity. As gasoline prices escalate, more and more suburban mothers prefer to save money by shopping at home.

Increasing numbers of senior citizens prefer shopping from catalogs rather than brave the elements, crime and hassles of crowded shopping centers and malls.

The phenomenon is growing as Americans spend millions on mail order goods each year. And the earlier catalogs have become collector's items. The easiest way to date or identify an antique or collectible is to find it in an old catalog. They've become valuable reference tools, and are eagerly snapped up at sales, flea markets and antique shows.

This writer is frequently asked to help identify an antique object or asked what is its worth? How much is a painting, jewelry, a piece of

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crystal, china, glass or silver worth? The price is only theoretical. It depends on how badly the seller wants to sell and how anxious the buyer is to buy. A really good piece of jewelry, if the seller is in no hurry, can bring him a lot more than he paid for it. But some things aren't worth what the person paid in the first place, or they're out of fashion, or you name it — the price is what ever you can get.

And some observations of shopping centers are in order — a regiment of women in slacks and hair curlers; a battalion of men in tee-shirts; three companies of babies in strollers; 12 platoons of teenagers in ragged jeans; and thousands of paper and plastic bags filled with the spoils of victory in the battle of bargain-hunting.

Upper-class, middle-class and lower-class Americans join democratically in the pursuit of happiness, their favorite weekend pastime, invading stores. One sees heart patients with their daily quota of miles to walk, along with senior citizens looking for a change of scenery and a visit with friends. The world has come full circle, and the country store has become bigger and just as much a community center.

During the Roaring Twenties, buying clothes through the mails had become an American institution. Entire families were often dressed via the U.S. Post Office. In the fashion pages of Sears and other catalogs is distilled the essence of the styles and the accurate records of what men, women and children were actually wearing in the 1920s.

A paperbound book of 156 pages of these catalog pages has been published by the Curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Over 750 illustrations show the everyday wear and the more exciting items including the Russian boots modelled by Gloria Swanson, the "Bob" hats worn by Clara Bow and Joan Crawford; coats, suits, dresses (including the very first maternity dresses).

This informative book is available from Dover Publications.

Community Affairs File

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Professional barbers supplied beauty needs

Community Affairs File T 3 OCT 23 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

As early as 1861, women of Terre Haute began seeking professional help outside their homes in arranging and caring for their hair. How they would marvel 122 years later at the contrast between our present day ultra modern equipment and conveniences and the pre-Civil War wig shops and house calls from professional barbers.

One of the first mentions of a beauty shop was found in The Daily Express of 1861. A small box advertisement headed "Tonsorial" announced that Professor George W. Canada had refitted his Shaving and Hair Dressing Salon adjoining the Terre Haute House. He stated: "Strict Attention given to Shampooing and Cutting Ladies and Little Girls' Hair."

The Terre Haute City Directory of 1864 listed George Canada, Terre Haute's first hairdresser, as a Negro barber who lived on Mulberry Street. He was the proprietor of the Terre Haute House Barber and Hair Dressing Salon, and furnished to order wigs, curls, puffs, etc. Ladies desiring work done were waited on at their residences.

In the early 1870s, there were one or two "Hair Work Manufacturers" listed, but these were wigmakers who sold the many hairpieces so popular in that period.

By 1877, Terre Haute had its first beauty shop similar to the ones we know today. Mrs. M. A. Crisher

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opened a hairdressing salon at 303 Ohio St. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Messmore sold "hair goods" at 507½ Main St., from 1881-87 when she moved to 426 Main St.

At the same time Mrs. M. T. Mayhew sold hairgoods at 12 S. Fourth St., moving to 26 S. Sixth St. in 1904. In 1910 she was listed as a hairdresser at 611 Ohio St.

The 1894 directory listed over 50 barber shops, but only three hairdressers. They were Miss Agnes Johnson, 510½ Main; Miss Sister C. Nelson, 115 N. Sixth; and Eugenia E. Smith, 27 S. Seventh St.

By 1901 Miss Johnson had moved to 646½ Wabash, and Miss Nelson, along with Miss Ella M. Hollingsworth, were employed at the L. B. Root Co. Beauty Salon.

There were 102 barbershops here in 1910 and seven hairdressers. They included Emma Allen, 108 Rose Dispensary; Laura Hurley, 209 Trust Building; Emma M. Mayhew, 611 Ohio; Arwilda Mygrants, 115 S. Seventh; Sister C. Nelson, 212 Opera House Block; Sarah E. Thompson, 308 Rose Dispensary; and Williams' Elite Hair Dressing Parlors, 651½ Wabash.

According to Nora Ault who graduated in 1921 from Burnham's Beauty College in Chicago, the first permanent wave in Terre Haute was given in one of the shops near

Seventh and Wabash. Exactly which one is now impossible to determine.

When interviewed in the 1950s, Mrs. Ault told how nearly all women had very long hair in the 1920s. Only the front hair was given permanent curls costing one to two dollars a curl. Marcel waving was very popular then.

Even the men came to the early beauty shops for facials, eyebrow-plucking, etc. One day a week was set aside in some shops for the giving of facials and "contours." Readers can see that "unisex" shops are not new in Terre Haute.

The first hair dryer in Terre Haute, according to Mrs. Ault, was a tiny gas plate with a small stove pipe elbow on top the burner to direct the heated air. She remembered that it was a real fire hazard.

When Opal Eckhoff was the owner of the Smart Appearance Beauty College, northeast corner Seventh and Ohio streets, Mrs. Ault was the first instructor. In the 1950s she had been in beauty work longer than anyone in the city and had restricted her work to only a few longtime customers.

Sue Williams, owner of the Suezon Beauty Salon located in the Fairbanks Building in the 1950s, came to Terre Haute in 1927 and

opened the BonTon Beauty School on the third floor of the Grand Opera Building. Her partner was Edna Phipps. Enrollment was restricted to 35 students for each term, and during its 15 years of operation, students came from as far away as Virginia and Canada.

Students learned shampooing, round curling (remember the old curling iron?) and then marceling. Permanent waving began with the spiral type wrapped from scalp out. Then came the croqu Shore type which reversed the process and curled the hair from the ends to the scalp. Later the cold wave was developed which used chemicals and did not require an electrical machine.

Traveling teachers gave lessons in fingerwaving at the Hotel Deming. This professional instruction cost \$10 a lesson. Hair coloring was also taught by these out of town specialists.

Down through the years hair styles and fashions in beauty have changed with the times. The prehistoric cave woman stuck a bone through her hair to attain beauty. Egyptian women gave themselves the first home permanents by rolling their hair on sticks, plastering it with mud, and sitting in the hot sun until it baked the curl in.

Today, women still have their hair cut and styled in modern shops, but many shampoo in the shower and quickly blow it dry to save time and money. Wigs are still popular, however.

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Clark, D. + History (Ind) Community Affairs File

General stores were social centers

NOV 27 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

In pioneer times the mercantile trade was almost entirely centered in the general store which offered a wide variety of necessities and luxuries that the people in the community could not make or raise for themselves. The social center of the early settlements, the general store offered its front porch for loungers, gossipers, political speakers and mail readers.

Other kinds of stores also served a social function — the groceries or doggeries or traps, which were permitted to sell liquor by the drink or by the gallon, as well as other goods. The prevalence of these taprooms or liquor stores showed the pioneer's fondness for whiskey.

The general store might keep a barrel of whiskey in the backroom to grease the wheels of commerce. Every male customer was invited to have a snort by the storekeeper.

The all-purpose general store sold staples, dry goods, hardware, and everything needed in the community. Early advertisements show that as early as 1816 some stores were selling crockery, dyestuffs, paints, drugs, books, stationery and shoes in exchange for wheat, rye, corn, oats, whiskey, hogs, lard, butter, tallow,

Historically speaking

beeswax, country sugar, cheese, rags, ashes, black salts, furs, boards, clapboards, shingles, lime and barrels.

The earliest stores were log structures with a front porch. The long counter inside was made of rough-hewn boards and stretched the length of the room. Bolts of cheap cloth were displayed on the counter. The shelves held knives, sheep shears, sickles, chains, bridles, etc. The odor of drying hides and herbs mixed with all the other smells, including the unwashed pioneer bodies, was not helped by the lack of ventilation. The stores were usually dark and gloomy, and the poor lighting helped the stock of goods look better than if brightly lighted.

Many stores were so constructed that when the weather was favorable they could open the front of the store. Wooden horses were placed on the walk in front of the store, some boards laid across, and on those boards the goods would be piled for display. Sidewalk sales are nothing new.

When the farmers drove to town, they hitched their horses to the awning posts in front of every store. The wide pieces of canvas used as awnings were stretched to poles extending out from the building and fastened to upright posts at the edge of the sidewalk.

Most of the customers carried their parcels away, but if they could not, the storekeeper would trundle their purchases in a wheelbarrow if they lived nearby.

The general store grew with the demands of the community. Dry goods and clothing might be displayed on one side, hard candy, tobacco, patent medicines on another, and another section for books, pens and paper, even Valentines. The post office would be located up front with a glass window

and pigeonholes for the mail. The shelves to the ceiling would hold everything imaginable, as would the grocery section with its spice grinder, tins of tea and coffee; the cheese and cracker barrels and sugar barrels and boxes of dried fish, as well as hogsheads of molasses, barrels of oil, casks of rum, brandy, gin and cider.

The rear of the general store would be filled with farm implements of all kinds from buggy whips to pitchforks. Later the acrid aroma of kerosene mingled with all the other smells of the country store.

The storekeeper was an important man in his community. He not only sold for cash, he extended credit, acted as banker, wrote letters, bartered for farm produce, and was influential in political times.

As the town grew and the surrounding area became more populous and prosperous, the general store became a victim of specialization. The items sold in separate sections of the old store were sold in separate stores — dry goods, hardware, drug stores, book stores and groceries. However, the general store was long a fixture of the country town.

Store-bought canned goods were rare, and as late as the 1920s, in some places, women flattened empty store-bought cans and concealed them at the bottom of the garbage, so the neighbors couldn't detect their "laziness."

The sharp practices of the early general store were not uncommon. There were those stores which sold wooden nutmegs when housewives had to grate their own spice. Many a person who had bargained for a piece of cloth was surprised at its actual color and quality when she got it out into the light of the day. Watering the tobacco, watering the rum, and sanding the sugar were other sharp practices.

to city growth,

Small businessmen contribute

T 8 DEC 1 1 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

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Too often a community hears only of a hand-picked few pioneers and prominent business men. Granted these men were responsible for the founding of the town, the movers and the do-ers of the business community, the men who came early, skimmed off the cream of the money to be made, invested it wisely in real estate, railroads, factories and public utilities, and then sat back and enjoyed the results. Every community needs these men, but it also needs the smaller business men who may have arrived a little later, but settled down in the town, contributed his taxes, served in public office, sent his children to the local schools, and helped make the economy grow.

Today's column deals with a few of these men. For example, A. J. Steen, proprietor of the Indiana Coal Exchange, who started his business Oct. 1, 1892, at 14 S. Eighth St. He was a wholesale and retail dealer in

coal and coke, shipper of high grade block, bituminous and hard coal and coke. Contracting directly with mine owners, he handled about 150 cars a month. With each order of five or more tons, Steen gave free fire-kindlers to his customers.

In 1890, George C. Rossell opened a small 5 & 10 cents store in Terre Haute. Business boomed and three years later he occupied a three-story building at 325 Wabash Ave. This thriving business was called "The Fair" and sold queensware, glassware, woodenware, hardware, tinware, silver and plated ware, baby carriages, cycles, toys, toy wagons, croquet sets, etc.

Rossell specialized in high-grade bicycles, including the celebrated Ormonde, Warwick, Union and the champion racing wheel, the Humber. He also operated a repair shop on the premises.

Among the famous wineries in the

United States was the local establishment owned by Philip H. Monninger whose office was located at 2014 N. Seventh St. Since 1863 he had devoted his attention to studying, experimenting, perfecting and comparing his specialties — native sherries, ports, malagas, angelicas, muscatelles, Burgundys, Trannier, Gutedel and Reisling dry wines.

He imported all the cuttings for his vineyards, 30 acres which he cultivated himself, and 70 acres more of grape vines produced under his supervision. He pressed out the juice and ripened the wine in his own vaults. Monninger's vaults contained casks holding 2,100 gallons each down to smaller sizes, a total of 50,000 gallons. They were arranged so that as age and fermentation required, the wine could be changed from one to another by means of an automatic cut-off steam pump operated by a 10 h.p. engine.

Monninger employed 12 to 15 men at all times, and 50 to 60 men, women and children during the grape harvest. With great care the fruit was conveyed to the huge, round wine-press, 54 inches in diameter, 42 inches deep, with an iron screw worked by a windlass where the juice was squeezed out at the rate of 2,000 gallons per 24 hours.

Monninger's large storage warehouse burned in 1876, but was rebuilt later. A veteran of the Civil War, Monninger was assisted in the wine business by his son, Louis P. Monninger, who acted as traveling salesman. His principal market was Chicago, but he shipped large quantities to St. Louis, Indianapolis, Dayton and Cincinnati, as well as to other more distant points.

After a long series of experiments with imported cuttings grafted on native stocks, Monninger produced a rheinwine that defied detection by experts as not the genuine imported vintage wine.

New people came to the Terre

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Haute community for many reasons, to teach in our schools and colleges, to manage our breweries and distilleries, to build our bridges, public buildings and fine homes. In 1893, William Caldwell, a general contractor of Middleton, Ohio, was imported to supervise the building the new Hulman building, Ninth and Wabash. The Driver Brothers, contractors in cut stone, brickwork, excavations and masonry, came from Hamilton, Ohio. McHose & Lyon, contractors for the structural iron work, came from Dayton, Ohio. The six-story, pressed brick and stone building cost over \$200,000 and was ready for occupancy about June 1, 1893.

Woodlawn Cemetery was considered "full" in 1893. Other cities were adopting park style cemeteries first established in Cincinnati, and Highland Lawn was patterned after Spring Grove Cemetery in that city.

Woodlawn was laid out in 1838 in the former style of straight streets and square lots. The system of allowing lot owners to raise, improve or neglect their lots at will did

not make for an attractive overall appearance.

By the 1890s, a new cemetery board made improvements in Woodlawn. Many trees and shrubs were removed to allow grass to grow. The grades were evened, and the tombstones straightened to give a well-kept appearance.

James Bain, formerly of Spring Grove Cemetery and a fine landscape gardener, was employed to superintend both Highland Lawn and Woodlawn. Earnshaw of Cincinnati, one of the leading landscape engineers of the country who had just completed a new cemetery at Buffalo, N.Y., was hired to lay out Highland Lawn on the 132-acre Jenckes farm east of the city.

Many of these people who were brought to town for a specific job elected to remain here and become part of the community. Any healthy growing area is a melting pot of many kinds of people, ethnic backgrounds, religions, talents and ambitions. It's fun to seek them out and record them for posterity.

Shoe repair shops were plentiful

Remember when shoes with run-down heels and worn out soles were taken to the shoe repair shop? People would either wait while the work was done or call back later for the repaired footwear.

Terre Haute's first city directory published in 1858 listed five establishments under "boots and shoes." They were Deck & Doll, Aaron R. Hedden, B. W. Koopman, T. P. Murray and Whitworth & Isaacs, located at No. 5 Union Row on Main Street., three doors west of Fourth Street. Their advertisement was illustrated with a large man's boot surrounded by all different types of shoes worn at that time.

Up until 1880 all boot and shoe makers were lumped in with wholesale and retail dealers, so it is difficult to know how many repair shops there were. That year there were 45 listings; in 1903 there were 32; and in 1915, the number had risen to 56.

From the days of shoe cobbling to shoe rebuilding, the greatest change was in customers. Only poor people had their shoes cobbled in the early days. Later, everyone wore repaired shoes. Now plastic shoes are thrown away, and footwear is recognized as disposable.

Real leather shoes are still repaired when necessary, but it's getting more and more difficult to find a craftsman. One of the busiest shoe repairmen in town is Larry

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Bruno at 1349 Wabash Ave. He learned the trade from his father, Tony Bruno.

The trade of early shoe cobblers was learned in the east when boots and shoes were all handmade. Men and boys wore the slip-in, high-top boots with wooden pegs used instead of nails to fasten the soles to the uppers.

Most of the early cobblers worked sitting down either at a cobbler's bench or on a stool with a lap-last across their knees. This lap-last was made of iron and curved to fit over the legs. It was used as an anvil at times on which to beat out the leather which had been soaked in water. This process closed the grain of the leather and made it more workable.

Later the leather came to the shop

rolled, sanded, limbered up and ready to use. Instead of cutting the full hides, the soles were factory-cut for immediate use.

Machinery changed the method of shoe repairing. First came a simple sewing machine which stitched the uppers and made crude patches. Wax was applied with a hot iron heated over a kerosene lamp device to finish the edges of the shoes. This slow process required sandpaper and a piece of glass as a scraper. Later the edges were finished in seconds on a special machine.

The hand nailing of heels was replaced by high-speed machines which drove the nails with lightning like speed. As new materials were used along with leather, soles were cemented on instead of being nailed.

Mr. Brading, shoe repairman in Twelve Points for many years, devised a way to keep newly half-soled shoes from squeaking. He would place an oval piece of burlap between the old and new soles and the annoying squeak was never a bother.

In the old days, times were hard and most people were fortunate to have two pairs of shoes, one for work and the other for Sunday best. When the work pair was beyond repair, the Sunday shoes were taken for everyday and a brand-new pair was purchased for Sunday wear.

Shoe buttons and button hooks are

now a thing of the past, antique items to be collected. They were kept in stock at Oskar Duenweg's store, 503 Ohio St. It was moved from Sixth and Ohio when the Terre Haute Savings Bank was built in 1911.

Most popular were the black-painted, wooden shoe buttons. There were also ivory, blue, brown and white pearl, and brown pyroid. The old Walkover Shoe Store used to give a plain metal buttonhook with the purchase of each pair of shoes requiring this assistance.

Women's high-laced shoes required 72-inch laces. These long laces are still used for ice skates, roller skates, hunting boots, work shoes and hiking boots.

Fads and styles in footwear are constantly changing, but once in a while the wheel turns and an old style comes up to the top again to new generations that have never seen it before. Those who thought the wooden soled shoes for ladies were so new need to be reminded that the Dutch and thrifty German emigrant ancestors wore wooden shoes while doing their outside farm chores to save their leather boots and shoes for special occasions. A set of iron tools to make the wooden shoes was given to the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley by the late Harry Brentlinger.

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Community Affairs File *Business*

SEP 16 1984

That familiar cry came to Terre Haute in teens

I read somewhere that America's first drive-in service station was opened Dec. 1, 1913, by the Gulf Refining Co., at the intersection of Baum and St. Clair streets in Pittsburgh, Pa. The station sold 30 gallons of gasoline that first day.

Terre Haute was in the gasoline business long before that date, but I suppose a pump on the alley behind the store didn't qualify as a drive-in service station.

The gas stations with a porch extending over the driveway to protect the attendant from the weather when he serviced your car was earlier called an oil station. After all, when automobiles were new, they sold almost as much oil as they did gasoline.

The first mention of an automobile in a city directory in Terre Haute was in 1903. The three dealers that year were A. Chaney & Bros., 23 S. Seventh St.; Hughes, Wolf & Miller, 331 Ohio; and George C. Russell, 732 Wabash Ave.

The next year, Standard Wheel Co., 671 Ohio, was listed as an "automobile manufacturer." The same dealers were listed except A. Chaney was replaced by the Terre Haute Automobile Co., 121 S. Seventh St.

Wabash Automobile & Electric Co., 925 Wabash, was added in 1906. By 1910 there were two garages and seven dealers. John S. Cox, 222-226 S. Seventh, was the only one listed selling gasoline and oil.

Standard Oil Co. came to town in 1892. George W. Carll, agent, was located at 545 N. Third St. In 1896, Edward L. Williams was the manager, and J. M. Noel was the agent. In 1898 they advertised wholesale carbon and lubricating oils. In 1901 the business moved to its present location at 531 N. Third St.

In 1907 Frank Shepherd drove a wagon with a team of mules for Standard Oil, delivering gasoline and kerosene to grocery stores in Terre Haute. They needed as much as five to 10 gallons of "gas" per week. The gas pumps were always on the alley behind the store.

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Kerosene was sold in the customer's container. Shepherd's only competitor was Johnny Shea of the Terre Haute Oil & Coal Co.

The first Standard station was located at the southwest corner of Lafayette Avenue and Ash Street in 1918. Another early gas station was owned by Orin A. Burgess, 1101 N. Ninth St. But which was actually the first station has never been proven.

By 1920 there were seven Standard stations here. They were located at Seventh and Poplar, Lafayette and Ash, Lafayette and Maple, 923 Wabash, Third and Wabash, Fifth and Ohio, 631 N. Third, and one in West Terre Haute at Paris and Market streets.

Two years later, the Burgess station at Ninth and Third Ave., still there but remodeled, was the only automobile gas station advertised. By 1922 Standard had closed the stations at Lafayette and Maple, 923 Wabash, and Third and Wabash, and had opened new ones at Third and Ohio, 13th and Ohio, 17th and Wabash, and Seventh and Spruce streets.

By 1910 gasoline was listed in three categories in the city directory. They included gasoline lighting, gasoline engines and gasoline. The latter product was sold by Terre Haute Oil & Coal Co., First Street at the Big Four Railroad.

The early motorist changed the oil in his car himself or took it back for service to the dealer who sold it to him. The company prevented the station attendant from airing tires

by not providing an air gauge. With 70-80 pounds of pressure, the first tires were very dangerous and apt to blow up.

Motorists even greased their own cars, so all the first gas stations sold was Red Crown gasoline, two grades of motor oil and cans of cup grease.

In 1921 gasoline sold for 19 cents a gallon, and there was no tax. When ethyl gas was first sold, it cost 2 cents a shot. A steel tank of this product with a tin inner seal was inverted over the regular gas pump and was mixed with the regular gas by a hand crank.

Most readers can remember the old-fashioned 10-gallon gravity hand pumps called "visibles." Electric pumps came along shortly after 1930. Everyone worked six days a week, so on Sunday morning long lines of cars and drivers waited patiently for service.

Winter weather brought special problems. Cautious souls drained their radiators each cold night. Others poured in alcohol costing 15 cents a quart, or glycerine. Some even poured in the very dangerous kerosene because it was so much cheaper.

In February 1916 Orin Burgess had a gas pump at the curb which held 275 gallons. He averaged sales of about 50 gallons a day. A law was passed allowing no more than five gallons above ground, so all stations had to sink large tanks. No more hazardous 60-gallon cans out in the backyard.

In 1920 his two-pump drive-in station opened at 5:15 a.m. each day. Jitney service with two drivers had already started in the south end, before Burgess began jitney service in the north end. A Mr. Strong drove for him at night. Another early driver was Nathan Samuel. Ruth Burgess Shook and her two sisters ran the jitney service.

Anyone with information on this early taxi service costing only 5 cents (or a jitney) is urged to contact this writer. It's a subject that has been neglected in local history.

Made in Terre Haute

Clothing mills, at first scorned, later

Early water mills harnessed power from the streams. This was a fluctuating source of energy that depended upon the rains and ultimately dwindled over the years.

As more settlers moved in and cleared the trees, the water table lowered and the streams became shallower and more sluggish. Most of the old mills "down by the stream" gave way to steam-powered mills in the town.

These mills directly challenged the pioneer way of life. Grist mills and sawmills were readily accepted as progress, but carding mills, textile mills and clothing made of manufactured cloth were frowned upon by some.

Making clothes for the family was always done in the home by the mother who performed all the functions of carding, spinning and fulling (shrinking) by herself, or with the help of neighbors. She turned out rough, scratchy tow linen shirts for the men and boys, who suffered great discomfort on their first wearing. She made linsey-woolsey garments, and even clothing from animal hides.

Pioneers often recalled the hum of the spinning wheel, the noisy clack of the loom and the flax break with nostalgia.

One mother was reported to have turned out 700 yards of woolen cloth in a year, while another produced as many as 2,000 yards. No one asked the women if they

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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

preferred the laborious task of hand-carding wool or if they welcomed the arrival of the carding mill in their community.

Some early settlers expressed disgust when manufactured clothing appeared in the stores. Why waste money on such new-fangled stuff, the old-timers thought, when good old linsey-woolsey was all a man needed? They felt that if folks bought goods at the store it meant idleness at home, with moral decay sure to follow.

The growing habit of church going caused the young people to want to look more stylish, so they bought hats and boots and manufactured clothing from the small shops in town.

By the turn of the century, Terre

Haute had several clothing manufactories with a weekly output of 150,000 garments from work clothes to fine suits for men and women's skirts, cloaks and wrap-pers.

Terre Haute's first clothing manufactory was established in 1870. The industry grew steadily and by 1900 the city boasted six large factories with four branches. Two of the branches were located here, two in Danville, Ill.

Traveling salesmen covered all the territory west of the Allegheny Mountains, as far as the Pacific coast. Garments carrying the label of the Terre Haute firms were to be found in nearly every city of the middle and western states.

At that time (1900), about 2,000 people were employed in this business, with payrolls amounting to many thousands of dollars weekly.

Carl Zimmerman came to Terre Haute from Tuscola, Ill., in 1869 to start the first factory on Main Street near Eighth Street. His factory in Tuscola employed about 10 people, and the output was small because all of the work was done by foot-powered sewing machines.

In 1873, the company moved to Sixth Street between Cherry and Main streets in the Koopman Block. In 1882 Carl Stahl entered into partnership with Zimmerman. The next year the company put in

power machines using steam power furnished by H. Hulman, who was located in the vicinity.

In 1888 fire destroyed the roof and back part of the factory. Zimmerman died that year, and after Koopman rebuilt, Stahl carried on the business until 1893. In 1891 Hulman built the building at 9½ and Ohio streets, so Stahl moved the factory there and put in 175 electric sewing machines.

In 1893 C.A. Urban, a relative of Zimmerman, formed a partnership with Stahl, and the firm became Stahl, Urban & Co. By 1900, 300 machines were operated by 340 people making overalls, work shirts, work trousers and a line of duck clothing for coal miners.

They established a branch at Danville, Ill., with 40 machines, increasing to 125, with 140 employees. In 30 years Zimmerman's humble beginnings had increased to two large factories.

The next factory to open in Terre Haute was run by Samuel S. Frank & Sons. It was opened on Main Street between Third and Fourth streets. All the machines were foot-powered so it took longer to make the garments.

Gradually business increased, and the company moved to larger quarters on Fifth Street. In 1890 it moved to a large three-story factory building on Ohio Street between Fifth and Sixth, and by this time

saw booming business

operated 100 machines.

A branch factory was opened in the new Filbeck building on Cherry Street, and another in West Terre Haute employing 100 people. The branch on Cherry made nothing but men's pantaloons and employed 150 people. The main factory made all kinds of workmen's clothing and employed 300 people. The company had branch offices in Boston, Pittsburgh, New York, Chicago and Denver.

The Ehrmann Manufacturing Co. opened its first factory on Main Street near First Street and employed 60 people. In 1894 it expanded to larger quarters in a new building at Tenth and Wabash where it began with 50 machines making mostly workingmen's clothing. Because of the local industrial boom, the factory output found a ready market, and by 1900 the weekly output was 8,000 garments including overalls, trousers, shirts, blouses, duck coats, etc.

A branch factory was built at Danville to make nothing but pants; it employed 150 workers. Selling directly from the factory, 10 salesmen covered a 15-state territory. Ehrmann's employed more than 700 people in 1900.

The Ideal Manufacturing Co. opened for business in December 1899 in a factory at 10½ and

Chestnut streets, owned by David Bronson. This plant made shirts, pantaloons, overalls and duck clothing. It began with 25 employees and soon doubled its business.

Kinser Manufacturing Co. was on South Ninth between Main and Cherry streets. It opened Dec. 12, 1899, with 65 sewing machines and 75 employees turning out 400 garments a week. By the end of the first year, 35 more machines were added and work hours extended to 10 p.m. to meet the demand. The owners were T.W. Kinser and his two sons.

Shuttz & Bryle opened the U.S. Wrapper Co. factory at Second and Main streets in January 1899 with 25 machines and 32 employees. Work also was farmed out to 100 women on the outside using foot-powered machines. They made 1,000 garments a week.

After a year the firm moved to 309½ Main St., added 50 machines and five more late model machines. The outside work force was increased to 150, and by 1900 an average of 4,000 garments was produced weekly. In March the factory changed hands. W.P. Ijams and R.G. Watson of Danville became the sole owners and R.E. Montague took over its management. It was a great boom for the garment industry in Terre Haute.

Terre Haute's ironmen

Nail factories, shovel makers gave town reknown in 1880s

Community Affairs File

One of the pioneers in the manufacture of iron in the Wabash Valley was Alexander Crawford. His sons, A. J. and James P. Crawford, were later the leading ironmongers of Indiana.

When Alexander died at the age of 76, he was president of the Newcastle & Beaver Valley and the St. Louis, Salem & Little Rock Railroads and general manager of the Nashville & Knoxville in which he had invested \$2 million.

He built a rolling mill in Newcastle in 1839, and founded the Wabash Iron Co. in Terre Haute. The mill was later managed by his sons. He had extensive iron and coal interests.

Two large iron mills, owned and operated by the Republic Iron & Steel Co. of Chicago, started in Terre Haute in May 1899. Previously owned by the T. H. Iron & Steel Co., these mills had been run by local capitalists who had purchased the old Terre Haute Mill on South 13th Street. It had been built in 1868. The Wabash mill in the northern part of the city was built in the spring of 1873.

The old south mill was changed by the local capitalists from a nail works to a bar iron mill. The two mills here had been in operation almost without stop from the time they were built.

Pig iron was converted into finished iron of all sizes, ready, when it came from the blast furnaces, to be worked into such things as machinery and wagon tires.

The capacity of the old Wabash was 50 tons a day, and that of the T.H., 100 tons a day. While in operation these two mills employed 800 men with a payroll of more than \$20,000 every two weeks.

The Iron and Nail Works was put into operation Feb. 1, 1868, by Turner, Glover & Co. George Turner was manager; Benjamin Wilhelm, machinist; William Crawford, master builder; and Joseph A. Morgan, treasurer. All came from Youngstown, Ohio, with their families to make Terre Haute their home. Their capital stock was

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\$120,000.

The iron they used came from the blast furnace at Harmony in Clay County, and the coal from Sullivan County, because it was preferred to Brazil coal. There were six puddling furnaces operated by 60 employees, who worked in the daytime.

In 1889 the Nail Works was sold to another company and renamed T. H. Iron & Steel Co. It was changed over to make iron bars, 15,000 to 20,000 tons annually. They were better equipped than ever for making nails. During the 20 years they manufactured nails they increased employment to 235 men and their output was 2,648,489 kegs.

The Vigo Iron Co. was located on the E. & T.H. Railroad, 1421 Washington Ave. Incorporated in August 1869 with a capital stock of \$125,000, it was one of only two companies in Indiana manufacturing pig iron.

Recognized for their excellence, the products of this mill found a market in the northwest, more than 12,000 tons a year. The raw material came from Iron Mountain, but large quantities of superior kidney iron were obtained from the streams of Vigo County and surrounding areas.

Terre Haute's fame spread to all corners of the world because of the T. H. Shovel & Tool Works, covering three acres on South Third Street. Organized in 1890, this company manufactured shovels of

every kind, hay, spading, straw, manure, coal and coke forks, ditching tools, spades and scoops, hoes and hooks of all kinds — all made of the finest tempered steel.

Whole carloads of these implements were shipped far and wide. Some 36,000 dozen shovels and an equal number of forks were turned out each year. This was the most famous shovel factory on this continent, so its products sold easily all over the world. Some 145 skilled laborers were employed. The tool works was abandoned in 1906.

In the early 1870s, S. J. Austin of Shelbyville, invented a method to make heavy-duty scales practically indestructible by using anti-friction, knife-edge bearings to relieve the wear and tear from the knives.

He moved to Terre Haute because of its easy transportation facilities and cheap fuel. Here he formed a corporation to make wagon scales, track scales and copper scales. The largest scale ever built here was 80 feet in length.

The Sanford Fork & Tool Co. was located on South Third Street with easy access to the railroad and switches. It was built early in 1888, giving work to 300 men who turned out 150 dozen shovels a day and an equal amount of hoes and forks.

The Phoenix Foundry & Machine Works was the oldest industry of its kind in Indiana. In 1865, two separate industries owned by different individuals were located on the ground covered by its buildings. In 1879 these were incorporated under the Phoenix name. For more than 40 years it was one of the leading industries of its kind in the Wabash Valley.

Located in what was then the heart of the city, on all the street car lines, midway between the Union Depot and the Post Office, this important local industry manufactured the cast iron parts of the roof, the dome, the windows and the cresting of the Vigo County Courthouse.

Retail, industrial strength grew throughout 1890s

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Clark, Dorothy

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In a 30-mile radius of Terre Haute in 1897 there were about 200,000 people, double that number in a 50-mile radius. All of those persons used one thing or another that was made or sold in Terre Haute, called the Queen City of the Wabash 90 years ago.

Nine railroads centered in the city served many coal mines. The coal was suitable for steam purposes and sold then for 50 cents a ton. Many square miles of the area were underlaid near the surface, or cropping out on hillsides, with various kinds of

Historically speaking



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clay, adapted to furnish linings, fire brick, tile, ceramic ware, vitreous, pressed brick, paving brick, pottery and manufacture of ochre and paints, mosaic ware, etc. The quarries of stone and glass ingredients were found within the same limits.

The one large canning factory in the city could not use enough peas to keep the commission merchants from shipping them in carload lots. Strawberries were the best. Watermelons and cantaloupes were shipped from Terre Haute by the millions.

Bartlett, Kuhn & Co.'s elevator drew millions of bushels of wheat, the famous Indiana hard red. The three distilleries, largest in the world, and the hominy manufactures, with the largest consumption of white corn in the world, used the corn of the area.

In panic years, Terre Haute was self-reliant and remained free of panic. During the last five years of stress, 1892-1897, Terre Haute erected all of the finer stores on Main Street, along with Rose Dispensary, great distilleries, new ice plants, elegant churches, handsome schools, a hundred stylish residences and a thousand smaller homes.

The brewing plant was doubled. Streets were paved with asphalt or brick, or macadamized. Many miles of artificial stone (concrete) sidewalks were laid. New manufacturing enterprises, trust companies, building and loan societies and business firms were organized.

The city's motto was: "The past is for the wise man the only guide for the future, what man has done men will do."

Ninety years ago, the city paid less for lighting than other cities because of cheap coal which was readily available. One Terre Haute oil well had been steadily producing for nine years.

The wholesale grocery trade of Hulman & Co. had customers at nearly 600 towns and stations. Its plant included a seven-story building, 140 feet square, a spice building and coffee mill, 60 by 120 feet, and three warehouses, each 35 by 100 feet.

A man who used to work hard in a railroad freight house went into the commission business in a modest way to sell potatoes, cabbages and other garden stuff. By 1897 he had a big warehouse and handled southern and domestic produce in a big wholesale business, and had the railroad freight men working for him.

Located in a garden country and on a great railroad system, the city was just right for a commission

business as the very successful Mr. Goldsmith found out.

The condition of retail trade is always an index of prosperity. About 1887 one of the best dry goods houses did business in rooms under the opera house. A few months later it moved into a six-story double front, \$7,000 rent, that would look fine on State Street in Chicago.

In 1892 another dry goods store sold goods in a double front, one-story room. Five years later it filled a triple front, four-story block. Still another store that had no upstairs room in 1897 fitted up a five-story double stone front costing \$4,000 a year.

A notion house that began in a one-room 18-by-50-foot building by 1897 had a double terra cotta front, four stories high, 142 feet deep. Furniture stores grew to double fronts. Clothing stores needed two rooms across, so there were seldom any vacant store spaces on Main Street 90 years ago. The town was booming.

The retail grocery trade of the city was described in 1897 as remarkable for its energy and style. Many grocers occupied the finest buildings in the city, drove the best horses to their wagons, and used style in their displays. They also were great advertisers.

No city of 40,000 population 90 years ago could boast as long or as fine a retail street as Wabash Avenue, usually called Main Street, with so many large, plate-glass fronts, beautifully trimmed by experts, as could Terre Haute.

Real estate in Terre Haute has never suffered from a real boom nor known a general decline, even in the 1892-97 years of depression. A safe investment, the uniform growth of the city in all directions, the even spread of street improvements, good pavements, sewers, water mains, electric lights, trolley lines and school houses in every part of the city, prevented any section of real estate from receding, insured steady upbuilding of all parts, and a gradual and certain rise in values.

The southeast section of the city was becoming more important in 1897 because of the opening of the new 80-acre Deming Park forecast to be one of the finest residential areas.

The northeast quarter of town was still being sold by the acre for manufacturing plants. Already in 1897 an elevator, piano factory, large canning plant, gunstock factory, box making and wheel factories had been established there.

Mills, packing houses sustain town's early days

The old water mill on Honey Creek built by Lambert & Dickson was perhaps the first industrial improvement on the old stump and horse mills that in their slow and imperfect way had furnished the pioneers their bread.

This early mill was erected on sand in 1816, and when it washed away shortly after completion, it was a real calamity to Wabash Valley residents.

The next year, 1817, Major Abraham Markle completed his more substantial grist mill in northern Vigo County on Otter Creek. This mill ground the grain for settlers all over the region.

A "float mill" was built three miles downriver on the Wabash River in early times by a Mr. Bennett. A steam mill was put up in Terre Haute by the Wallace brothers about 1823. However, the people subscribed the funds and gave them to these men to build the mill. They were the sons of a preacher who held meetings in the first courthouse.

As early as 1824, B. I. Gilman of Cincinnati opened a pork packing business in Terre Haute. Immediately other pioneer pork packers began operations, including J. L. Humeston, B. H. Griswold, L. Ryce, James Ross, William J. Rieman & Co., John F. and William S. Cruft and John Burson, who had a cheap wooden structure on the south side of Wabash Street below First Street. Alexander McCune was his packer.

Daniel Johnson and Ralph Wilson did business in a frame house until they built on the north side of Wabash on the lot later occupied by the Kintz Lumber Co.

After packing some years with Joseph Miller, Jacob D. Early opened a packing house of his own on the south side of Mulberry Street. This was later converted into a theater, where traveling troupes gave performances and the histrionic efforts of native talent were tried out.

Chauncey B. Miller built a pork house in 1841 on the corner of Canal and Water streets. Early later purchased these premises in 1848 and built his large pork house the same year.

Historically speaking



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James Johnson, James Farrington, Israel Williams and John Boudinot built pork houses in 1842. The others were owned by Paddock & Co., Levi G. Warren, Benjamin and Samuel McKeen, George R. Wilson, John Duncan and others.

It was the custom in those days before railroads to send the corn and pork to New Orleans by the river route on flatboats. Even after the Civil War, the pork packing industry continued to be important in Terre Haute.

In those days the freight rates of Indiana played havoc with the trade. The farmer had to pay more for a haul of two miles than for one the full length of the railroad. The pork packing industry, therefore, took a slump.

The last season there was a pork house in operation locally was from 1878 to 1879, and production was much smaller compared with previous years. An effort was made later to organize a pork packing company here, but again the freight rates prevented its success.

At one time Terre Haute was in danger of being named Hogopolis because of the large number of hogs raised in this region, which together with the corn yield, made this region famous. Pork packing could be maintained here year round.

Back in the 1880s, Terre Haute was excited about the experiments of the Hudnut Hominy Mill. It was discovered that an oil could be extracted from the heart and germ of Indian corn. This was Mazoil, a transparent liquid, golden in color, with a specific gravity about equal to ordinary lubricating oil. It was odorless and very clean, so it was used principally for cooking and baking, taking the place of lard or butter fat.

The Hudnut Co. utilized in its manufacture that part of the corn which was not used in hominy or grits, the company's main products. About 100,000 gallons a day of Mazoil was turned out.

The Wabash Cooperage Works was located between Second and Third streets along the Vandalia tracks. Its products were all kinds of tight barrels for use in distilleries and the oil trade. The last owner was Mr. Gilman and the place became known as the Gilman Stave and Barrel Factory.

In 1900 Frank McKeen, D. E. Reagin, S. C. McKeen, J. J. Dan-nacher and O. McGregor re-organized the concern. For more than two years they employed 56 men who turned out 225 barrels a day. The plant closed down just before Prohibition.

Stephen Adair was the sole owner of a loose barrel factory on East Crawford Street near 13th Street. The factory occupied nearly a half acre, and employed 20 men the year round. His son, Ed Adair, was foreman. Annual output was from 50,000 to 70,000 barrels.

He manufactured barrels of all kinds for the packing of salt, coffee, flour, etc., as well as boxes for packing all kinds of merchandise. Most of the product was used in the city and only a small portion was shipped away.

The Hudnut Milling Co. was established first in Edinburg, Ind., in 1852, and grew to be one of the greatest industries in the country. It was moved to Terre Haute in the early 1860s where work began in an old wooden building at the foot of Walnut Street on the river. Theodore Hudnut was president. B. G. Hudnut was secretary-treasurer.

Later the company had two mills, a frame and a brick, along with an iron-clad elevator here. They employed 100 men, with a daily output of 1,200 barrels of old-fashioned lye hominy, called grits.

Newhart & Gardner established a hominy mill in Terre Haute in 1878 with a capacity of 150 barrels a day. In 1884, Newhart died and the business was conducted by his widow and son, who reconstructed the mills throughout with an enlarged capacity of 400 barrels a day. This mill burned down in 1886 and was rebuilt with a capacity of barrels a day. The buildings located on South First Street were made to all of the U.S.

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new industries

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Clark, Dorothy (4) Business & Industry (W) History

Terre Haute of 1897 was home to

Think of something new and bring it to Terre Haute was good advice in 1897.

As an example, the overalls and work clothes maker in Illinois moved to the city and established a wholesale business. Zimmerman paid 5 to 10 cents for making a shirt, which sounds like very small business, but he showed it added up to a good weekly pay check.

He built up a big business. His bundles of piece work went into hundreds of homes, making a large and entirely new income for working people. Soon Terre Haute dominated the work clothes trade and employed over 2,000 women.

The little brewery on Poplar Street which began with \$2,500, grew into an enormous plant, capital of \$500,000, and a capacity of 300,000 barrels a year. The 1897 trade was nearly \$1 million and still growing.

Any trade that grew by distribution over accessible, good territory grew at Terre Haute, hub of transportation 90 years ago.

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It was claimed that Troy, N.Y., did all the laundering business because it had peculiar water. A Terre Haute men's furnishing dealer, James Hunter, tried a few collars and cuffs in Terre Haute water and upset the water theory.

His firm developed the laundry work until it had 14,000 customers scattered through 200 towns, some as far away as 200 miles. The

railroad and express facilities made it convenient for 200 towns to have their laundry done in Terre Haute.

A little bakery opened up in town turning a few barrels of flour a week into bread and crackers. The old Dowling Hall, located where the Forrest Sherer Agency is now, was barely large enough to accommodate the Miller Brothers Bakery in 1897. Their dough mixers ran day and night, seven days a week, because their bread and crackers export and local sales were immense. They continued to grow, moving into new quarters on East Wabash, and continued a very successful business for a number of years. Their bakery building was sold, remodeled and now is used for another business firm.

The Saturday Evening Mail had always insisted that Terre Haute came nearest the golden mean. In 1897 there was not one \$100,000 residence, but neither were there squalid tenements. Working men

and their families lived in neat cottages.

There was still room for building on all the best streets. The excellent streetcar system prevented overcrowding near downtown. Thousands of homes were built in the good times of 1888-92 and were

still being paid off because of the building and loan associations.

The city was brightly lighted every night in the year from its center to the remotest city line by arc lights. Terre Haute had a filtered water system, the only one in the state, with a water pressure to reach the highest roof tops and pipes laid to the suburbs.

The city had the best laid electric streetcar system in the country, with clean cars and enough of them to dispense a Barnum circus crowd in 30 minutes.

In 1897 the most recently erected buildings included the First National Bank; Albrecht & Co; Herz, Havens & Geddes Co.; A. Z. Foster;

Root & Co.; Hulman & Co.; Hulman & Beggs; and Ehrman & Co.'s great business block.

Also, the new Filbeck Hotel, Rose Dispensary, Union Railroad station, two immense distilleries, two great elevators, the brewing cold storage plant, St. Benedict Church, the First Methodist Church, German Reformed Church and the \$100,000 opera house block was rapidly nearing completion in four months, all in 1897.

Jackson club rooms had been established on the upper floor of the stately Rose Dispensary Building, according to the news. Politics kept the pot boiling in Terre Haute, even as it does now.

The 1898 city directory boasted that while other cities had been at a standstill during the hard times, Terre Haute had even increased its population to 45,200, but that included the suburbs, so the city proper had 43,000.

Henry C. Steeg was serving as mayor in the city hall building on

the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets. Frank T. Borgstrom was city treasurer; William K. Hamilton, city clerk; Peter M. Foley, city attorney; Ralph H. Sparks, civil engineer; Harry Stokes, street commissioner; Charles E. Huland, police superintendent; and James Daugherty, chief of the fire department. James Bain was cemetery superintendent. Michael Jacob was market master.

Some reader is sure to puzzle what were the nine railroads centering in Terre Haute. To save telephone calls later, they were The Chicago & Eastern Illinois; Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis (Big Four); Evansville & Indianapolis; Evansville and Terre Haute; Indianapolis & St. Louis (operated by the Big Four); Michigan Division T. H. & I.; Terre Haute & Indianapolis (The Vandalia Line); Terre Haute & Peoria; and, of course, the Terre Haute Street Railway Co.

Terre Haute's manufacturers

By their works, customers knew them

Is JAN 11 1987

In 1872 a stove manufacturing plant was established in Terre Haute by Ball and King. Later, from 1876 to 1877, it was operated by E. J. King. The three-story foundry was located at Sixth Street and the Vandalia Railroad. The cook stoves and heating stoves were turned out by 25 skilled mechanics.

The Metallic Wheel Co. plant, covering a quarter of a block on the southeast corner of Eighth and Cherry streets, was built in 1887. The facade of the building was covered with wheels, an early way to identify the product of the establishment.

The inventor of this wheel, Alexander Messmer, was a designer and manufacturer of fine furniture in the east. He was persuaded to come to Terre Haute by Horatio Keyes of the Keyes Manufacturing Co.

Louis Duenweg, local capitalist, saw the merits of the metallic wheel and formed a company for its manufacture. This plant employed from 150 to 500 men to make all kinds of wheels, for baby carriages, tricycles, bicycles, gold, silver and nickel platings, as well as reed and rattan furniture.

From earliest days in Terre Haute, signboards were fashioned

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

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in the shape of the object the shop made or sold. Many people could not read, but they could identify their wants and needs by the signs of shoes, eyeglasses, coffee pots, watches, spinning wheels, coffins, and all the other signs dangling over local stores and streets.

Two brand names of Bement, Rea & Co., wholesale grocers, were "Fawn" and "Keystone."

"Milk's Emulsion" was the patent medicine manufactured by the Milks Emulsion Co. It was first placed on the market in 1902 by J. E. Milks, originator of the formula based on crude petroleum. Prescribed for stomach, bowel and lung afflictions, it was supposed to

be good for all ills of children. It came in a bottle with a long-handled tin spoon attached to scoop out the vaseline-like substance. Many families swore by it.

Valier & Spies Milling Co. at 13th Street and the Vandalia Railroad, sold its hard wheat flour under the brand name of "Enterprise." Another brand name was "Tip Top."

Joe Shultz, wholesale liquor dealer, sold "Old Black Joe," straight rye whiskey in bottles.

"Rahm's Bread" was the specialty of Mr. Rahm's Bakery at Ninth and College.

Sold nationwide, the "Never Wear Out" brand was the trademark of working men's garments manufactured by the Ehrmann Manufacturing Co.

Charles W. Bauermeister, wholesale grocer, sold "Good Morning" coffee, "Jane Justice" canned goods, "Peerless" flour, "Hart" brand canned goods, and "Yours Truly" pork and beans.

Local cigarmaker, William "Billy" Alman, made and sold the "Wanda" cigar. The "Gen-To" temperance drink was made by the Gen-To Manufacturing Co.

Hulman & Co., wholesale grocers, are still selling "Dauntless" coffee and "Clabber Girl

Baking Powder," still said to be the finest in the world.

The People's Brewing Co. made and sold "Spalter" and "Celtic" beers. "Champagne Velvet" was the beer of the Terre Haute Brewing Co.

"Pearl" ice cream was the product of the Terre Haute Pure Milk and Ice Cream Co. "Model" ice cream was made by the Model Co.

Sparks Milling Co. sold at least three flours, "Ring Leader," "Vigola" and "Arrow."

Henry Becker's Terre Haute Bottling Works sold "Beck's Pepsin" and "Cherry-Cheer." The Chris Stark Bottling Works in 1913 sold "Star Pepsin" as its popular beverage. Another was his "Orange Cider."

The Ideal Baking Co. put "Nutro Bread" on the market in 1913. That same year Hance's Dairy Depot, 601 N. Eighth St., sold "Clover Leaf Creamery Butter" that you could have spread on the bread.

Another product being sold locally that year was "Hans and Fritz" union-made cigars sold by John A. Miller.

In 1912 Baur's Reliable Drug Store, 705 Wabash Ave., in the Terre Haute Trust Building, sold a

popular product called "Baur's Lettuce Lotion."

The Indiana Milling Co. on Maple Avenue at the C. & E. I. and Big Four railroads was offering "Sterling" and "Jersey" mixed feeds.

By 1920 Lederer-Feibelman Department Store was offering wool knicker-length suits, dark stockings and high-topped shoes for small boys. Spanish combs were popular, along with all sorts of hair ornaments set with stones. Long strings of pearl beads and other beads were in fashion. Many had tassels and "double dorins" with small mirrors attached.

Cloth of all kind was for sale — all-silk charmeuse, French serge, shepherd check wool, galatea, outing flannel, poplin, white shaker flannel, percales, pillow casing and sheets for 69 cents each. In the bargain basement, there was every kind of underwear including three grades of silk hose, corsets and pink knit bloomers.

Kimonos were popular in 1921. Hats were worn low on the forehead. Bosoms were flattened as much as possible with bust confiners.

What local brand names of products do readers remember?

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ton of coal Interminable days at 28 cents per

There were five brothers who were coal miners. They worked a total of 199 years in the mines and other work related to mining with only one minor accident that required any compensation pay. Brother Frank lost the end of one finger while operating a coal-cutting machine.

This is not a made-up story about coal mining some time around the turn of the century. It is all true. Every miner today should be thankful for the changes from the times when a man worked a month or more loading coal with a pick and shovel for about the same pay the coal miner gets now for one day's work. The old-timer worked hard for long hours.

A veteran coal miner, Joe's coal mining days were over before he agreed to an interview. He knew how dark the coal mines are, how the sun never shines and the rain never falls, miles under the rocky mountains where he started working in eastern Kentucky before moving on to Indiana.

About 1900 he made 75 cents a day, with no starting time and no quitting time like the mines have today. In the winter months when the days were short, the old miners never saw daylight, only on weekends. Joe was past 75 years old when

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he recalled how hard it was to make a dollar in those days.

Steel tracks were laid to the face of every working place in the mines. The coal cars were pulled with mine motors. The motorman and brakeman got \$2.70 a day, but they had to stay and pull the coal as long as any of the men would stay in and load coal. No one got overtime pay.

He remembered loading coal in a mine in the 1920s where the top was so bad he had to set a cross header every cut of coal he loaded out. Water dripped on his back from the top all day long. By working hard

and long hours, he loaded about eight tons a day. At 28 cents a ton that was \$2.24 a day.

The water was so bad in this mine it would float the coal off his shovel. He had to move the shovel slow and easy to get the coal to stay on it. When he asked the boss about getting some of the water pumped out, he was told the coal he was loading didn't feed him. He could load it or leave it. It was necessary to get a dollar scrip at the company store to survive.

In one section of that mine, the air ventilation was the worst he had ever seen. Some of the men would nearly pass out. Just after they would shoot the coal, the powder smoke wouldn't move out.

All old coal miners knew about rats in the mines. If the air got too bad in a section, the rats would move on to another part of the mines. The men had no where to go, but the rats were already gone.

There were no state or federal mine inspectors then. When the coal companies had a safety inspector go through, he was paid by the company. He never found dangerous conditions or bad air. If a miner complained too much about safety, he would soon be looking for another job.

In the early days the coal loader had to

lay his own track. Joe told of dragging a 20-foot steel rail 100 feet or more under low top to get the track laid to the face of the coal. The miners also did their own timbering.

Using a "bug-dust" shovel about 8 feet long, they would drag two tons of the fine coal out from under the cut of coal. Then, using a 6-foot breast auger with a two-handed crank, they would brace their back against the top and grunt and sweat until they had bored a 6-foot hole in the coal. Sometimes it was necessary to crank three holes in one cut of coal. Then they put in the powder, tamped the holes and hollered, "Fire." All this work had to be done without any pay before a miner could load a ton of coal.

Sometimes when the coal was shot, two or three feet of rock would fall on the coal. Joe had worked all day moving rock before he could load a car of coal. The company paid a dollar a day for moving rock. They called it yardage, but the old coal miners called it mileage.

They bought their own carbide lamp and carbide, their powder and shooting cable, and all their own tools. They had to pay a company blacksmith to sharpen coal picks and augers.

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Before the cable and battery method of shooting coal, miners used fuse and dynamite caps. Sometimes they would drill two or three holes in one cut of coal and put two or three pieces of fuse, all different lengths. They would clamp a dynamite cap on one end of the fuse, put a hole in the stick of powder, using a powder punch. The longest fuse was lit first, shove the powder and dummy with the tamping stick in the hole, and move fast to the next hole. When you got it tamped, it was time to run. This was the most dangerous way to shot coal.

In the early mines in Indiana coal cars were pulled with small mules or ponies. Getting in the cars outside the mine, the miners would hook the mules to the cars, three to a trip of cars. Each mule was geared up straight in front of the other and took off in high gear underground. It was called a string team.

The cars had spoke wheels, and no brakes. Some of the mines had very steep hills, and the driver, who rode in the car next to the mules, would jump out with an armful of sticks called sprags to throw in a wheel to check the speed as it started down hill. Then, the driver would catch the rear car and continue on into the mine.

discussion

Early phones gave voice to wider

OCT 04 1987

Although many times we may wish the telephone had never been invented, how could we live without it? Especially when it rings when we're in the shower, weeding the garden, or watching an interesting television show.

The telephone gets its name from the Greek words meaning "speak far away," and was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. The first telephone in Indiana was installed in Indianapolis in 1877.

In Terre Haute, the telephone came into general use in the early 1880s. In 1883 the Central Union Telephone Co. had about 350 telephones in the city with connections to Brazil, Greencastle, Indianapolis, Carbon, Sullivan, Shelburn, Farmersburg, Paris, Marshall and Vermilion.

Twenty-five years later, the company extended its services to several thousand subscribers in the city and to all the towns in Vigo County. In addition, the Citizens Telephone Co. had been given a franchise in 1898 and had a system almost as extensive as its competition.

According to the Bell Telephone System's Almanac, the hardest thing in the world to kill is a myth. Once it is started, it can be denied or proved wrong,

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yet in a short space of time it will spring back to life with all the persistency of crabgrass.

Many legends grew up around the telephone. A year seldom goes by without the reprinting in newspapers and magazines of one that first hit the public press in the 1870s. It goes something like this:

"A man about 46 years of age, giving the name of Joshua Coppersmith, has been arrested in New York for attempting to extort funds from ignorant and superstitious people by exhibiting a

device which he says will convey the human voice any distance over metallic wires so that it will be heard by a listener at the other end. He calls the instrument a 'telephone' . . . well-informed people know it is impossible to transmit the human voice over wires as may be done with the dots and dashes and signals of the Morse Code, and that, were it possible to do so, the thing would be of no practical benefit . . ."

These stories usually credit a New York newspaper for the first appearance of the news item, but researchers have never located the original. It's an interesting, if untrue, story and because myths seldom fade away, you'll see it printed many times in the years to come.

A red-letter day for the telephone in Terre Haute was Oct. 3, 1894, when the first long-distance phone message was heard. Special equipment was set up in the "ordinary" or breakfast room of the old Terre Haute House for the convenience of the special guests invited to participate.

From an old photo of those present it was possible to identify William Penn, Arthur Baur, Charles Goodwin, Arthur Clark, J.J. Hager, Charles Baur, Col. Richard W. Thompson, Mayor Fred Ross,

Will Arnold, Sheldon Greiner, George W. Bement, A.G. Austin, W.W. Byers, Harry Thompson, S.M. Reynolds, T.J. Griffith, Clyde Dunseth (manager of the telephone company), Messrs. Ainsworth, Cox and Kidder, and the baseball evangelist, Billy Sunday.

The time difference in the east was not taken into consideration, so Col. Thompson's calls to several bankers of his acquaintance in New York were not completed. It was 3 p.m. here, but the Big Apple financiers had all left their offices for the day.

During the demonstration, the men called Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York and Boston.

Charles Baur was talking with his brother, Jacob Baur, in Chicago, when Jacob forgot there were 16 people listening to the conversation and began talking over important business matters, and Charles had to stop him.

In October 1915, the human voice first crossed the Atlantic. With permission of the French government, Bell System engineers installed radio telephone equipment in an underground room connected with the wireless antenna on the Eiffel Tower.

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During the early morning hours of Oct. 21, one of the Bell engineers heard the words, "... and now, Shreeve, goodnight ..." the first fully-authenticated, transoceanic-radio telephone message.

Following World War I, these experiments were resumed, and in 1923 speech was transmitted from New York to London. In 1926, two-way telephone communication between these two cities was demonstrated, and the following year commercial radio telephone service between them began.

When the very first telephone call went through, inventor Alexander Graham Bell had the only telephone transmitter in the country. His assistant, Thomas A. Watson, had the only receiver. Today millions of telephones carry more millions of conversations every day.

It's been 93 years since the excited gentlemen crowded into the breakfast room at the Terre Haute House to witness the first long-distance call. Now people anywhere in the world are as close to you as your telephone.

Try to remember all these wonderful strides in perfecting the modern telephone the next time you're awakened from a sound sleep by a wrong number!

General store talk of the town

Clark, Dorothy
FEB 21 1988

The general store, long a fixture of the country town, became a victim of specialization as the town and surrounding area grew in population and prosperity. It combined three main kinds of merchandise — drygoods, hardware, and groceries — as well as a host of minor ones — pharmaceuticals, stationery, books, ready-to-wear clothing, and so on. Eventually, separate stores selling these items were opened.

The early general store offered a wide variety of necessities and luxuries (luxuries that in time became necessities) that the rural folk could not raise or make for themselves.

The social center of the early settlements, the general store (or its front porch in mild weather) became the habitation of loungers, gossipers, discussers of politics and mail readers.

Other kinds of stores served a social function — the groceries or doggeries or traps — which were permitted to sell liquor by the drink or by the gallon, as well as other goods. They were really taprooms and liquor stores catering to the pioneers' fondness for whiskey.

To grease the wheels of commerce, the general store might offer whiskey in the back room, keeping a barrel, along with a pitcher of water, maple sugar, and a tumbler of ginger in cold weather.

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The storekeeper invited every male customer to partake.

As early as 1816, a Zanesville, Ohio, storekeeper advertised his "goods, hardware, crockery, groceries, dye-stuff, paints, drugs, books, stationery and shoes," and offered to take in payment "wheat, rye, corn, oats, whiskey, hogs, lard, butter, tallow, beeswax, country sugar (maple sugar), cheese, rags, ashes, black salts, furs, boards, clapboards, shingles, lime, and barrels."

The front porch was the only amenity for the pioneer store of logs. Dingy, shopworn goods were displayed on a long counter of rough-hewn boards the length of the room. The first 10 feet of counter space was covered with bolts of cheap cloth, the next with hides (here sat the cobbler, ready to

work up a pair of shoes for a customer).

Farther back were groceries and hardware, mainly nails and bars of iron. On crude shelves were packages of knives, with a sample torn open for display, sheep shears, sickles for harvesting wheat, chains, bridles, and so on.

For the women there was calico, cap stuff, pins and needles, and fine cambric, from which were made some of the first wedding garments for the settlers' daughters. A man who wished a fashionable broadcloth suit with yellow metal buttons, high collar and a forked tail could be outfitted, provided he had the money.

A smell of unwashed pioneer bodies, mixed with the odors of drying hides and herbs permeated the close atmosphere. The stores were dark, gloomy and poorly ventilated; the only light and air coming from the front, because of the shelves of goods on either side. Because most of the stock couldn't stand a close look, the merchants didn't care if their stock was less visible. They blocked out more light by draping shawls and stuff in the front window. A customer might be surprised at the actual color and quality of a piece of cloth when he or she got it home.

Sharp practices were not uncommon. An apocryphal story was told of a deacon who called out to his

clerk: "John, have you watered the tobacco?"

"Yes, sir," the clerk replied.

"Have you watered the rum?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you sanded the sugar?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then come in to prayers."

An 1850 store was described as having one counter from front to back. The front of the store was made so when the weather was favorable the entire front was thrown open. Two wooden horses stood on the walk in front with boards laid across and piled high with merchandise.

The boss or one of his clerks stood near the door and would pop out if he saw a prospective customer. Remnants of prints sold for sixpence, 8½ cents a yard or 12 yards for \$1. Customers would dicker with the clerk to beat down the price.

Awning posts were placed in front of some stores, so farmers could hitch their horses. The awning was a wide piece of canvas stretched to poles that extended horizontally from the building and fastened to these upright posts at the edge of the sidewalks.

There were no delivery teams in early days. Customers carried and hauled their parcels in wagons. Large purchases were carried in wheelbarrows to their homes.

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General stores adapted to new product lines

T-S 2/28/88
Last week's column told of the pioneer general stores. Today's column continues with the more elaborate type. Drygoods might be displayed on one side — ribbon, thread, silk, corsets, bustles, fans, gloves, hankies, shawl pins, and artificial flowers for the ladies, and paper collars, cuffs and shirtfronts, ready-made neckties, suspenders, and red-flannel underwear for the men.

Across from these, near the front, would be a section devoted to hard candy in jars, tobacco, cough drops and patent medicines such as Perry Davis' Pain Killer, Radway's Ready Relief, Log Cabin Bitters, Hostetter's Bitters, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral and Beecham's Pills. Another section offered stationery, pens, ink and valentines in cases, maybe a few books.

The post office had a glass window, and pigeonholes for mail. Shelves displayed crockery, tableware, washbowls and pitchers, glasses, lamps and earthenware crocks and jugs.

Next came the grocery section with its spice grinder and tins of spices, tea and coffee; the cheese and cracker barrels and sugar barrels and boxes of dried fish, along with hogsheads of molasses, barrels of oil, casks of rum, brandy, gin and cider.

At the rear were the farming implements — pitchforks, rakes, hoes, scythes, snares, whetstones and a circular rack of horsewhips suspended from the ceiling. Most stores mingled the acrid smell of kerosene (which replaced whale oil) with food odors and the strong aroma of heavily oiled leather harnesses.

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The country storekeeper not only sold food and merchandise, he also acted as a bank, keeping customers' money in strong boxes. He gave credit, wrote letters, subscribed to periodicals, guided travelers, acted as postmaster, and usually became a leader in political affairs as a Whig.

A shortage of currency complicated his economic functions, along with his giving of credit at high interest, in a money-starved pioneer economy. He accepted farmers' produce in barter providing an early, if small, market for these goods.

The merchant often bought his goods on credit, for six or nine months or a year, making an annual trip to a large city to acquire stock. He had to be canny about buying or he would lose his shirt by buying stock he might be stuck with for the next year. Credit customers were charged a high

markup and paid their bills once a year, usually on New Year's Day in many areas. Counterfeit money was a real problem in those days also.

As the town and surrounding area grew in population and prosperity, the general store declined. Eventually separate stores selling just one category of item were opened. The general store survived only in the rural areas. The wheel has turned again, however, and now variety stores and supermarkets are back in style, selling soup to nuts, all under one roof.

Early pioneer towns were built on shifting economic sands, and many disappeared as casually as they were founded while others stagnated. The subsistence-farming-barter economy of pioneer days gave way to one based on money and a surplus-producing agricultural plus trade with the outside.

An Illinois governor blamed the sluggish growth of country towns on the farmers' refusal to sell their grain at the going market prices.

After setting aside enough food to live on and with few other expenses, they held out in hopes of forcing prices up, even if it meant letting their crops rot in the fields. The farmers were chronically short of money, and so bought on credit, which meant that the town merchants charged them higher prices.

At the same time, the merchants had trouble paying their debts and went out of business or eked out a bare living. This meant that the towns did not prosper and remained small.

In New England, farmers sold at market price and paid cash for their goods. The merchants could pay their debts and keep a turnover of goods on their shelves. As a result, it took only three or four years to build up a New England town, while in Illinois it took 20 years.

Community Affairs File

Remember when?

The iceman cometh, house calls, soda fountains at drugstores

Clark, Dorothy
Can you remember ...

... When the ice man always chipped off some chunks so we could grab them off the truck? We'd wrap a piece of newspaper around them to keep our fingers from freezing.

... When you got your milk for cereal out of the window box on winter mornings? It saved money when the iceman did not cometh.

... When your Dad drove in the White Rose filling station on North 13th Street, and the attendant pumped the gasoline into the glass tank before he could fill your tank? And how good the gasoline smelled in those days before additives and stuff?

... When you could pick up free maps at the filling stations? Along with free air if the tires' pressure was low, and a thorough check under the hood without asking, and rest rooms were clean and unlocked?

... When every drugstore had a marble-top soda fountain? And chocolate-marshmallow sundaes were a real treat, and ice cream cones always had a bright red candy cherry on top?

... When doctors made house calls carrying their little black bags full of pills in bottles to count out in tiny white envelopes?

... When we had a "rag top" Model A Ford (the automobile I learned to drive) and it had running boards? I don't know how you learned to drive, but my elder sister taught me. I closed my eyes to get through tight places, and my nephews (they now are grandfathers) will gladly testify to that! I only remember having difficulty turning to the right —

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bumped one gas pump in Sandcut and one police car at 15th and Locust streets.

... When riding in a rumble seat was fun? Of course, that was B.A. (before arthritis).

... When fireplaces, coal-heating stoves, and the hot-air furnaces were banked at night so the fire wouldn't go out before morning? And the ashes and clinkers, and the coal delivery man who shoveled

the coal down a chute through the cellar window?

... When everybody sat on the front porch swing? Kids played on the porches during summer showers, told ghost stories to scare themselves silly after dark before bedtime.

... When kids enjoyed the swings and slides and teeter-totters at the city parks? Swings had chains that squeaked and wooden seats that could knock one silly if one didn't learn to play defensively. Pumping a swing was wonderful exercise, but no one I knew ever knew went over the top, as we were warned might happen.

... When girls wore black sateen bloomers to the park and carried bread wrappers (not the plastic wrap we have now) to make the big slide more slippery with wax?

... When a skate key was your most precious possession and you wore it on a long shoelace around your neck? Sneakers were not sturdy enough for those roller skates, but a sturdy pair of leather shoes would hold up very well. I can remember when certain streets were first paved by remembering the smooth surface where the neighborhood kids played hockey with a squashed Pet Milk can for the puck.

... When the neighborhood grocer delivered your groceries? And the turnstile in the Piggly-Wiggly Store downtown? And the local bakery that baked a double loaf with a red-and-white striped

peppermint stick in the crease?

... When errands took longer because you couldn't "step on a crack or break your mother's back" or step in a square of sidewalk that had printing stamped in it?

... When you saw your first vaudeville show at the Hippodrome Theater or the Indiana Theater? Acrobats turning cartwheels fascinated a certain chubby little girl following a matinee performance. By the time her father arrived home from work, she had managed to sprain her wrist trying to turn a cartwheel on the front lawn.

... When all families decorated graves on Decoration Day? They planted pots of flowers, hung baskets, cut flowers from the backyard, and carried them in tin cans to the cemeteries.

... When every family would hang the American flag on their front porch? And Dad would allow small American flags on the radiator ornament on the Fourth of July? And what a treat it was to find a good parking place to view the free fireworks display and ooh and aah long past bedtime.

... When peddlers sold fresh fruits and veggies from the backs of their wagons and later trucks? One would ring a bell, so you'd know he was coming down the street. Another had a powerful voice and yelled: "Strawwww-berrrrries." Only Dad could choose a good watermelon with his hefting, thumping and plugging, the peddler was lucky to make a sale. Then it had to be placed in a tub of cold water to chill. How sweet they were!

... When the glass blowers came to school to demonstrate their craft and made little animals and pens filled with colored water? What ever happened to all of the souvenirs kids took home in those days? And the class photograph, and individual photos, and you had to get dressed up and try to stay fresh for the ordeal?

Send your "remembers" to me and we'll share another column.

Business boomed in 1881

New structures sprang up overnight

Is SEP 25 1988

Clark Dorothy
In late September 1881, the country was mourning the death of President James A. Garfield. The Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail carried black-bordered headlines and related all of the tragic details.

Readers waded through the eight-page edition crammed full of patent medicine advertisements, along with column after column of local merchants' notices and sales.

Editor Perry S. Westfall wrote that this had been the most prosperous season for building that this city had ever had. Residences, from the working man's cottage to the stately mansion, had been erected all over the city in great numbers.

In fact, Westfall believed one could throw a stone in any part of the city and strike a new building. Residences outnumbered business houses, and bricks were so scarce some were forced to put up frame buildings instead.

The grand opening of the Hoberg, Root & Co., 518-520 Wabash Ave., was the talk of the town. According to the verbose reporter, "A curious public has watched for many weeks the spacious building where the veteran builder, Captain Hook, with a large force of workmen, has been busily engaged transforming a plain, somewhat dingy, though substantial and roomy edifice into a light, airy, and elegant storeroom. An immense gold-lettered sign at its summit seemed to

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light up the square, and curtains with an elaborate monogram decked windows filled with immense sheets of glass."

When these curtains were rolled up, two windows were revealed filled with elaborate pyramids of costly and attractive merchandise. A swarm of female shoppers scrambled across the marble tile floor to see the new store and its elaborate decorations designed by Alfred Hoberg himself.

All day long a steady procession of gawkers and shoppers moved up and down the aisles and stairways.

In those days 125 stools were provided to relieve the tired feet of the shoppers. There were hundreds of gas jets lighting miles of shelving and counters in the 40 by 142 foot store on four floors.

Every type of drygoods was on display — furs, satin, damask, Parisian suits, shiny trimmings at

\$32 a yard, and fleecy California blankets. The elegant cloak room sold only cloaks tried on and fitted in front of three huge mirrors.

There were dozens of salesmen and saleswomen, and a swarm of cashboys under the watchful eyes of George F. Ripley, floor-walker. Pastel silk hose sold for \$5 a pair.

Not to be outdone by the grand opening, Herz' Bazaar also had been enlarged and renovated and filled with the results of his recent buying trip to New York.

The Buckeye Cash Store, southeast corner of Sixth and Main, featured corsets, shawls, cloaks and wraps, laces and fringes, and colored skirts, black silks, velvets and velveteens.

In other local news, residents were informed that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was scheduled for two performances at the Opera House. This would be followed by Herрман, the world's greatest magician.

The Mail's newsboys were offered a new inducement to deliver the paper. Each boy was urged to ask his neighbor to take the Mail each week. He would take a nickel to the newspaper office at 3 p.m. on Saturday and pick up two papers, sell one to the neighbor, and get his money back. The more subscribers the boy signed up, the more spending money he would earn, and become a little businessman.

The Saturday Courier was known as the oldest Republican newspaper in Vigo County. The

trouble was it often disagreed with the other papers in town, and it's difficult to decide the truth.

They listed 247 manufacturing firms in town, some of which employed from 200 to 500 men. There were 41 shoemakers, 26 carpenters and builders, 14 blacksmiths, nine cooper shops, nine saddle and harness makers, 11 bakers and confectioners, 11 cigar-makers, seven brick makers, seven carriage makers, five flour mills, four boiler makers, four pump makers, three each of bleachers, engine builders, foundries, gunsmiths, locksmiths, machine shops, medicine manufacturers, planing mills, shirt factories, stave factories and wagon-makers.

Also, two each of bottlers, bookbinders, box-makers, cabinet makers, cigar box-makers, coffee and spice mills, hominy mills, hub and spoke factories, iron works, mattress factories, overall factories, sawmills.

And, at least one of each of the following: awning maker, bed springs maker, brewer, brass foundry, broommaker, car maker, carpet weaver, clockmaker, coopersmith, meal and feed mill, distillery.

Yes, Terre Haute was booming in 1881. Again the statement about throwing a rock and striking construction in progress might be true — if one looked where he was throwing.

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Mills became magnet for industries, center of thriving towns for settlers

ts OCT 16 1988 / Clark Dorothy still in the mill
Terre Haute was not founded around any industry or existing reason for a town. Its town proprietors, typical promoters, chose the site and touted it as a transportation hub, seat of government, center of commerce and industry and trade, or whatever interested purchasers wanted it to be.

The potential of the site, its location on the Wabash River, its potential as an important trading center, its coal deposits, fertile land, nearby hardwood forests, etc., were of course offered in blue-sky language, but the development of all this potential was left to the enterprising man with the capital and know-how to accomplish his goals.

Terre Haute was not a town that grew up around a gristmill like so many villages in the Wabash Valley. The first mill was located on Honey Creek south of town, but it washed out after a season of heavy rains. Markle's mill north of town on Otter Creek was established early, but a mill in town was not built until much later. The river was used for its water power for a short time only. The Wabash is not reliable as a source of water power, and was even less so then.

"Even in a subsistence economy the gristmill was a necessity," according to the thought-provoking book titled "Small Town America," "and since farmers brought their grain from miles around, the mill was, along

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

with the crossroads, the tavern, the ford, or the bridge, a natural cynosure of widely-scattered population."

The author explained that "mills were largely of two types, the horse mill and the familiar water-driven mill. Horse mills featured an upright shaft turned by the horse and attached by a system of pulleys to the grindstone.

If the mill prospered, as did Markle's mill, a sawmill was added, followed by a general store and a blacksmith's shop. Markle even added a whiskey distillery and lumberyard.

In most cases a village grew up around this

nucleus, but not at Markle's mill. They did offer a stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves escaping from the south. It also was the muster grounds for the home guard when they drilled with cornstalks over their shoulders instead of guns.

Rebel prisoners were housed in locked basement rooms for a time, and the stagecoaches made regular stops at the old mill to and from the northern part of the state.

The blacksmith was a one-man factory in his own right, as well as a repairer of pioneer implements. He made nails and horseshoes, but he also fashioned chains, tires, rephooks, bullet molds, yoke rings, axles, animal traps, files, shears, locks, keys, adzes, plowshares, hackle teeth, bits, saws, and the metal parts of a variety of implements for home and farming such as spinning wheels, looms and flails.

Expert smiths made axes and guns, and, if they had additional equipment, even stoves, skillets, pots and pans. Gun-making and ax-making were demanding arts, because they were difficult and time-consuming and because these two items were the pioneers' most necessary and highly-prized tools.

The smith imported the soft bar iron or cast steel he worked with from Pittsburgh or

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Europe. Close to the Wabash Valley, the abundant iron and coal deposits in Ohio were imported by water to this area. An inferior grade of pig-iron was smelted in local foundries.

Another of the early town industries was the textile mill. These used water power (until steam engines were available) to perform spinning, fulling or carding. If the mill prospered it added weaving machines. The water power from the creeks fluctuated, depending upon the rains, and their source of power dwindled away as more settlers moved in, cleared the trees, lowering the water table.

Terre Haute supported several woolen mills, turning out several grades of cloth, blankets, etc. Farmers who raised sheep in the valley could bring in their wool and get cash or trade for cloth and blankets.

One industrious woman could turn out 700 to 2,000 yards of woolen cloth in a year's time if she had plenty of household help to do all of the other chores like cooking, cleaning, canning, caring for children, etc. Women welcomed the carding mills and manufactured clothing much to the disgust of the hog-and-hominy believers in homemade linsey-woolsey. If folks bought goods at the store, that meant idleness at home with moral decay sure to follow.

Down under

Vigo County geological structure yielded coal, oil

JUL 15 1990

A geological survey made in 1870 of this section of Indiana revealed some interesting facts about Terre Haute and Vigo County.

It was reported that on the west side of the Wabash River, Section 9, Township 12, Range 9, on the St. Louis & Terre Haute Railroad (later the Pennsylvania Railroad), Barrick & Co. had sunk a shaft to the same seam of coal which was mined at a number of shafts a short distance to the east and one and a half miles from Terre Haute. This enterprise was called "Sugar Creek Coal Mines."

The shaft began eight feet above the level of the railroad track, which was about 57 feet above low water of the Wabash River, and penetrated to the depth of 54 feet. The coal taken from this mine was compared to that taken from the Crooked Creek seam "L" mined at Seelyville, on the east side of the river, eight miles from Terre Haute.

The coal from this shaft was about 11 feet above the horizon of low water of the Wabash River, and 46 feet below the level of the railroad track.

The shaft at the foot of the hill, one and a half miles west of Terre Haute, commenced just above the high-water mark, and reached the same seam at a depth of from 25 to 35 feet, showing a dip from the river to the west.

At St. Mary-of-the-Woods, five miles northwest of Terre Haute,

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the coal was 100 feet below the level of the railroad. State geologist E.T. Cox called attention to the fact that the Wabash River runs on an anticlinal axis.

At Terre Haute, on the east side of the river, coal "L" was cut out by the drift, and was reached at 100 feet below the level of the railroad at Seelyville.

In the geological report, it was shown that below the coal there were oil-bearing rocks in great force. Up to that time, little oil had been taken from the few wells then bored, but it was predicted that oil might and would be found in paying quantities somewhere in the district.

The prediction then made was fully verified by a well bored in 1869, a quarter of a mile northwest of the Rose well. This was the third well bored at Terre Haute and the

second one bored in search of oil.

They all penetrated to the corniferous limestone, which immediately underlies the black slate of the Ohio survey.

The first, or Rose Well, was sunk to the depth of 1,793 feet. It was bored for water for the Prairie House, and strict attention was not paid to the type of rocks after passing through the coals in the upper part of the section.

At 1,629 a vein of oil was struck which yielded about two barrels a day. The oil was shut out, and the bore continued until an abundant flow of good sulphur water was reached.

Chauncey Rose, owner of the Prairie House, was not happy with the oil strike nor the sulphur water. All he wanted was a good, fresh water supply for his hotel.

He was finally persuaded to use the sulphur water in a bathhouse. This proved very popular until one of the bathers became overcome with the fumes and almost died.

Rose also objected to the sulphur fumes blackening his silverware and causing endless polishing and cleaning. He ordered the well to be capped off and done away with.

The second well was bored on the river bank about a mile west of the first well. The work was undertaken by a company looking for oil. Experienced borers were employed and the record of the strata passed through could be

relied on as accurate. A little oil was found but not enough to justify pumping.

A third well was bored at the east end of Cherry Street where the Wabash & Erie Canal bed was located. This well was in operation for several years and created a nuisance with its large pool of oil on the ground. It yielded 24 barrels a day.

After passing through 150 feet of superficial sand and gravel, the boring was carried to a depth of 1,625 feet, where oil was struck.

According to the state survey, the strat passed through were: coal measures, 700 feet; carboniferous limestones with underlying sandstone and shales, 700 feet; black pyroschists, regarded as the equivalent of the Genessee slates, 50 feet.

Beneath, at a depth of 25 feet in the underlying Corniferous limestone, the oil vein was found.

In the fall of 1870, the Vigo Blast Furnace was built at Terre Haute by the Vigo Iron Co., and went into blast. A.I. Crawford was president, secretary and treasurer of the company.

They used as fuel the raw black coal from the company's mines on the branch road south of Brazil. The ores came from Iron Mountain and Merrimac. Some 24 tons of mill iron were produced daily. It took 4,800 pounds of coal to make one ton of metal.

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Cold storage

Before 1894, Wabash River was best source of ice

Is DEC 30 1990

How many readers can remember the last time the Wabash River was completely frozen over with more than 8 inches of ice? There are those who still insist that the weather has not changed. But just as many take the opposite view.

The first artificial ice company to locate here in Terre Haute began production in 1894 and was an immediate success. Before this time, the only available ice came from the river.

In the late 1880s, a freeze was the signal for a score or more of horse-drawn wagons and plows to make their appearance on the river. From early December to late February, L.F. "Dad" Perdue, Terre Haute's earliest ice cutter, his men and the employees of the breweries would be busy with the ice harvest.

There are records showing Mike Kennedy, Ezra and Si Morton, and Dan Ranberger as being early ice cutters.

As soon as the ice was at least 8 inches thick it was considered safe enough for the horses and wagons to go out on the river. Very few accidents ever resulted.

On the first day the men would mark out the ice cuts. The next day the horse-drawn plows would cut through the ice to a depth of 3 inches to 4 inches, and then saws were used to cut the rest of the way through.

The blocks of ice were cut 24-inches square and then hauled in wagons to the ice houses for storage. Perdue had a machine which would take the ice from the river after it had been cut and drag it up to his storage house which

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stood about where the water works now stands at Locust and Water streets. This cut the time and labor costs, and he was able to store more ice than his competitors.

River ice enabled the pork-packers to stretch their season by using the cold storage facilities produced by the sawdust-packed ice houses located north from the Main Street bridge to the Big Four Railroad bridge. There were years when the severe winters allowed 10-inch and 12-inch ice to be cut from the Wabash River.

As population increased and the economy advanced, the need for artificial ice was recognized, and the Vigo Ice & Cold Storage Co. was formed. The incorporators were Frank A. Fauvre, Eugene Bretney, Joseph C. Schaf, all of Indianapolis, and local businessmen, Clemens W. Nagel and Charles Monninger.

They began with \$25,000 capital stock divided into 500 shares of \$50 each. The new company purchased land at the northwest corner of

Water and Cherry streets, and built a small factory and office.

Their first ice-making machine had a daily capacity of not less than 25 tons, but this was found to be inadequate the first hot summer. To deliver this ice, the Terre Haute Buggy Co. built three two-horse wagons and one one-horse wagon. A man named Steinrock was ordered to make three double-set harnesses and one single harness. Total cost for the wagons was \$837, while the harness cost \$120.

A man named Cook at Lawrenceburg was hired to dig the well 80-feet deep with an 8-inch pipe. His work included a deep-well pumping engine and cost only \$500.

In the fall of 1894, an office and stable were built, and the new business began to look like a thriving factory. Ice was furnished free to the hospitals in those early days.

A second ice-making machine was installed which turned out 25 tons daily in 300-pound blocks. Business was so good, a \$5 stock dividend was declared. By the summer of 1898, all indebtedness was paid off, and the monthly salary of the manager, W.A. Kennedy, was increased to \$80.

In 1901 new ice-making machines were installed to keep up with the growing demand. Another building was necessary to house the equipment and additional space was needed to provide cold storage. By the 10th annual meeting of the stockholders, the company had doubled their business, the new buildings were completed, and additional land had been

purchased north to the next street.

It was not until 1925 that the Vigo Ice Co. saw the advantages of changing over from the old horse-drawn ice wagons to motorized equipment. After all, the well-trained horses knew the routes as well as the drivers and helped the work along by always stopping at the right house.

The new-fangled trucks would have to be driven from door to door, and the changeover was a drastic one. Eight new Ford Trucks were purchased, and the delivery system was partly motorized.

A few months later, the manager, Leonard Roach, reported that "in his estimation, the complete delivery system, wholesale routes as well as private routes, should be motorized as the trucks in operation were very satisfactory." He also reported that a garage was needed instead of a barn to properly house the vehicles.

An employee since 1903, Roach became manager in 1908. Under his direction in 1920 the most modern and complete exhaust steam machinery made was installed, and soon the output was 100 tons daily.

Vigo Ice & Cold Storage also owned and operated the Sunbeam Coal Mine from 1908 to 1914 which furnished fuel for the ice plant. After the mine was no longer producing, the land was farmed, and in 1922 was said to be the largest fruit orchard in Vigo County.

In 1967, Julian Fauvre, son of the founder, Frank A. Fauvre, sold the Vigo Ice & Cold Storage Co. to an Evansville buyer.

Signs of the times

Hanging shapes told what products were in store

The little town of Terre Haute of 150 years ago had as many colorful advertising signs hanging out in front of its shops and stores as it had room for — and then a few more!

Many of the pioneers could not read or write in those early days, and the printing on the signs could not be deciphered, but the shape of the sign told the story.

A carved horse was the sign of a harness maker, saddler, or someone who worked in leather. A boot denoted a shoe store. A watch sign hung over the shop door of a jeweler or clock maker.

Many of our earliest shopkeepers identified their locations with the sign advertised in the newspaper box advertisements. For example, H. Starks stated in the Wabash Courier of 1842 that: "I have moved my watch shop to the next door north of Mathew Stewart's Hotel, where I am prepared to repair all kinds of time-pieces and warrant them to perform accurately — Especially those that Tinkers have failed to make perform." Starks also engraved silverware, and his shop sign was a large metal gear.

A year later, the Wabash Courier printed this exciting announcement: "Prodigy! The 79-foot barber

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pole, the loftiest in this part of Indiana, is the sign of Edward Roy's splendid open-front Barber Shop in which is carried on Barbering, fashionable and fancy Hair Dressing; every branch of the Tonsuratic business pursued; making false curls, (if the hair be furnished, to be woven) equal to the eastern article; renewing Razors; putting the most perfect and delicate edges on them; coloring Garments, almost any shade, as done in the English factories; Renovating and Lustering Garments to the appearance of new."

Roy went on to tell that, "the shop and ground being mine, with

entire freedom from indebtedness to all the world (except gratitude and exchange of business) with the best patronage of the paying kind, prove my residence here. Without the fulfillment of the above promises, no charge will be made. Charges to suit the hard times, and not beyond those in the ordinary shops. Strops (those for shaving and whipping naughty children) of those bringing razors to be renewed, re-conditioned to their first sharpening qualities, without charge."

This unusual Barber Shop was located "a few doors north of Stewart's Hotel which, at that time, was sometimes called the 'Washington House.'"

Clark & Patrick, Barbers and Hair Dressers, also had a shop on Second, Street, just one door north of Stewart's Hotel. Their striped barber pole, however, was regulation size.

On the northeast corner of the public square in 1843 was the drygoods and hardware store of John Reinhard. In the newspapers of that year he offered to accept Canal Scrip at 50 cents on the dollar to pay off debts owing him. His shop sign was a spinning wheel.

Near this place, often called "the old Locust Tree Corner" by the early settlers, was the drygoods and hardware store of Freeman & Johnston. They sold just about everything they could buy, trade, or get their hands on. Their shop sign was a huge yellow plow.

In 1843, D. M. Crisher advertised that he had "just received a large assortment of spectacles to suit persons of all ages, prices, etc. Concave glasses for near-sighted persons, goggles, etc. will be sold for cash."

His exact shop location is unknown, but early residents could find it by looking for the sign of the Gold Watch.

That same year R. McGuire advertised that he would "pay the highest market price for wheat, flaxseed, feathers, beeswax, tallow, bacon, corn, oats, rye, butter, dried beans, and country produce in general, in exchange for goods."

McGuire would also take beef hides, deer skins, and furs. His "Cheap Produce Store" was located in Scott's Row, first door west of the Sign of the large Red Hat."

People with knowledge of early shop signs are invited to contact this writer.

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Coal came of age in late 1800s

Terre Haute became important mineral mining center

To trace the history and development of this locality's coal mining interests, it's necessary to go back to the building of Fort Harrison in 1811. Easily accessible coal deposits across the river were one reason for choosing the site, and why the government took title to land on both sides of the Wabash River.

The next mention of coal in Terre Haute's history occurs about 1833 when a few wagon loads of inferior, yellowish surface coal from Honey Creek were brought to town and sold to local blacksmiths.

No one at that time thought of substituting coal for the best of hickory, beech and maple woods, which could be had for \$1.25 per cord.

Coal was known to exist in large quantities in the hills and bluffs west of the river, only one to four miles from town. This knowledge reached Jacob Thompson of New York City about 1838. He came here, formed a partnership with a local man, and began the first coal enterprise.

These pioneer coal operators chose the bluffs six to eight miles up the river on the west side for their first mining activities. Large quantities of coal were mined out by slopes, loaded onto rickety barges, but none ever reached New Orleans.

When the barges were loaded and ready to leave, the river was so

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low they couldn't floated. They sank along the shore.

The enterprise failed with severe monetary loss to the owners. The enthusiastic Thompson did, however, convince some Terre Hauteans that the black stuff was good to burn in their fireplaces.

Times change, however, and nothing caused these changes more than the railroads. By 1872, an account of the growing coal industry stated that "for fuel and for steam, no city can command coal as cheap as Terre Haute. It is on every side of her, east, south, north and west, and good railroads, affording cheap transportation, penetrate all these vast coal fields . . . this coal was delivered to manufacturing concerns in Terre Haute at \$2 per ton."

Before the discovery of the great

value of block coal for fuel in smelting iron, land could be bought for \$10 to \$20, an acre. In 1872, the value had soared from \$100 to \$200 an acre.

When the earliest discoveries were made, it was not known that there was more than a single vein, called the upper, or hill strata, which averaged about 3-feet, 9-inches in thickness. Later, a lower vein 4-feet thick was developed at a depth of only 25 feet in the creek bottoms, and from 70 feet to 80 feet on the high ground. This lower vein was found to be more free from sulphur than the upper vein, hence a very superior coal for the iron furnace.

This block coal was mined by means of slopes and shafts for the upper vein, and by shafts alone for the lower. It was supplied to Terre Haute consumers at about \$2.50 a ton.

Daily shipments of this coal to Terre Haute, Indianapolis, New Albany, Evansville, Chicago, St. Louis and many other locations amounted to from 5,000 tons to 10,000 tons, and the five large furnaces already on the ground consumed 250 tons to 300 tons daily.

The 1872 report told how the Terre Haute & Evansville Railroad ran across a very valuable coal field 20 miles south of Terre Haute. The coal of that region was of excellent quality for grate and steam

purposes. The demand was large and increasing. The vein was 6- to 7-feet thick, and the supply was considered inexhaustible.

S. H. Potter, in his survey of the coal situation in 1872, closed with this prophetic statement: "Now what surpassing advantages do these coal fields afford to Terre Haute? Surely it needs no prophetic wisdom to predict that she will become a large commercial and manufacturing city, and that her growth in the future will surpass our most sanguine expectations."

"No one can doubt," he said, "that there will soon grow up in our midst extensive establishments for the manufacturer of all kinds of agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, architectural wares, iron, steel, nails and glassware."

"A beneficent Providence has provided well-filled bunkers of coal on every side for such enterprises. The question then may be asked with all due modesty — where in Indiana, Illinois, or in any other State of the West can capital be so well employed, and with such promises of success, as in the beautiful city of Terre Haute?"

What would Potter have to say about his coal theory 118 years later? How impossible it is to see the future and explain why theories go astray.

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Shedding new light on city streets

In 1853, gas pipes brought fuel for street lights

TS MAY 20 1990

In June 1853, Terre Haute seated its first officers as a city government. In that year, 137 years ago, Terre Haute was merely a town with 4,000 inhabitants.

The streets were unpaved. There were few sidewalks better than wooden planks, and those who were out after dark stumbled their way home by the dim light of a candle inside a tin lantern punched full of holes.

The railroads were only a year old. The Wabash & Erie Canal was still in operation, and the public landing between Ohio and Walnut streets on the Wabash River was busy with steamboat arrivals and departures.

The pork-packing industry had just passed its high period, and was to decline because of the opening of other packing centers in large cities.

The single wire of the telegraph was here, coming in on the National Road and running west to St. Louis. The two railroads were just beginning to use that system of communication. If there were only two trains a day in each direction, and neither of them ran at night, there was little need for train dispatchers.

A half dozen new brick buildings west of Fifth Street showed the growth of commerce, but there was little activity in them after dark.

Early in 1853, some people were thinking about street lighting. The

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local newspapers carried the news of the Statehouse in Indianapolis being lighted by the new gas in January, 1852. A newspaper could now be read easily in any part of the Senate Chamber and House of Representatives.

With such a good report, the local city fathers decided to overcome the prevailing darkness on Terre Haute streets by granting a franchise to Benjamin Barker and Harvey B. Spellman to set up and maintain a gaslight system.

One of the requirements was that one mile of pipe should be laid by Dec. 1, 1855. This was not fulfilled, and three weeks later another franchise was given to Samuel Ross and Thomas H. Hay.

Incorporated in 1856, the Terre Haute Gas Light Co. acquired a tract of land lying on the west side

of North Sixth Street a half-block long to the west and bordering on the Wabash & Erie Canal. The plant was finished in a short time.

This company was to light the streets with gas, furnishing posts, lamps and tubing and the burners, while the city would erect and maintain the posts.

The service was poor, there were many interruptions, and on Oct. 23, 1857, the Weekly Journal complained of the skunk-like odor of the gas. After a two-week suspension, service was resumed and the bad smell was gone.

The first gas mains laid under city streets in 1856 were six inches, four inches and three inches in size. By the end of the year, nearly four miles of pipe had been laid and 150 meters installed.

It became necessary to pass a city ordinance prohibiting lighting or extinguishing public gas lamps without the authority of the city, as well as climbing on the posts or hitching horses thereto.

An interesting account of this early industry was written in 1872 by George Rugan, secretary and superintendent of the Terre Haute Gas Light Co. "There have been laid about 10 miles of gas mains," he reported. "There are 700 consumers and 260 public lamps. The Works are located on Sixth Street near the canal, consisting of a retort house, in which are four

benches of three retorts, and two benches of five retorts each, a purifying house, and two holders — one 40 feet and the other 60 feet in diameter, with a total capacity of 75,000 cubic feet.

"These Works being too small, the present needs of the city too large, and to make ample provision for the future needs of the community, new works are in the process of erection on the west side of Water Street, between Poplar and Swan streets.

"Being built at present (1872) are a new retort house with the requisite foundations for 10 benches of five retorts each, a purifying house to contain four purifiers, 12 by 14, and the other necessary appendages, with an office for station meter and business transactions on the south end. Coal sheds, etc., will be put in operation this year."

For many years the rate per thousand feet was \$4, but the threat of competition in 1876 brought a rate of \$3.50 with a discount of 50 cents for prompt payment. At this time, 14 miles of pipe served 800 customers.

Terre Haute has made progress from the days of dark streets lighted by the candle lantern carried by the brave souls caught out after supper, to the modern-day, brightly lighted electric street lights turning night into day.

Vigo County Public Library

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Valley heritage

Industry plentiful in 1870 Terre Haute



Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

In the 1870s, the Terre Haute Express would list with great regularity the growing numbers of manufacturers and their products.

The manufacture of horse and mule collars was becoming an important branch of industry here. Fred A. Ross, in connection with his saddlery and hardware business, made 12 or 13 hundred dozen per year, mostly for western trade. Tabor Bros. was doing a fine business in the same line, and Musgrave Bros. was moving up in the trade.

Cooperage was one of the most important of the city's industrial interests. Products needed barrels and boxes to be shipped in, but the 13 different establishments were suffering with too much stock waiting for buyers, and were reducing their labor forces.

Hulman's Distillery was working at the rate of 1,400 gallons per day, about half its capacity. It contributed about \$900 daily to Internal Revenue. Most of its products were sold in Cincinnati, but large quantities were shipped to St. Louis, Indianapolis, Evansville and all points west.

Hulman had on hand about 60,000 bushels of corn and was still contracting for large quantities. He kept a thousand hogs and several hundred head of cattle in pens at the distillery to fatten on the discarded mash. This distillery used a great number of barrels, enough to keep a cooper shop in operation. At the rate of

33 barrels per day, they also purchased from Gordon & Wood, Frank Sage and Gilman Bros.

Seath, Hager and Gilman were making freight cars for the St. Louis, Terre Haute & Vandalia, as well as other railroads. The Vigo Iron Co.'s furnace and all its various buildings were nearing completion.

In the 1870s Terre Haute was doing quite a business in the manufacture of carriages. Two salesrooms belonging to Wildy, Thomas & Co., and Scott, Oren & Co., were doing quite a business.

Hudnut's Hominy Mill was stopped for repairs, and they could not fill a large order from Glasgow, Scotland. They had a direct trade with 18 different states in addition to their foreign customers, with annual sales totaling over 12,000 barrels.

The Eagle Iron Works, owned by W.J. Ball & Co., was filling a number of large contracts for machinery to operate coal mines. They couldn't keep up with

orders for portable sawmills. They were famous for their railroad scrapers in use all over the country.

Carter & Co.'s stave and barrel-head manufactory was a new business in town. The loom factory on the corner of Eighth and Main employed about a dozen hands. It wasn't a large business, but it was well-managed and successful.

S.K. Allen of the Terre Haute Furniture Co. reported he was employing 40 to 50 hands. It had been in operation four or five years with entire success turning out all kinds of furniture by steam.

A wood and willow ware factory had been established on Main Street near the river by J.W. Mand. He sold goods at prices that defied eastern competition.

Phillip Newhart's plow factory was working full-handed. He was making 2,000 plows per year. His sales were mainly to western dealers, although he often filled orders from Indiana cities and towns.

The owners of Thompson & Keyes were planning to increase their facilities and enlarge their line of operation at their hub, spoke and plow-handle factory. They had buyers for all the work they could turn out.

The new superintendent at the nail works, William Fairgrieve, was very popular with employers and employees.

Joseph York's rope factory was doing a good-paying business. John Best was doing his

level best to keep up with the demand for his manufacture of boxes.

Thomas Vance was making pumps. His plans for expansion were proof of their excellence.

Vigo Iron Co. had just installed a four-horsepower engine. Fine specimens of stone work (probably tombstones?) were in the yards of Wagner & McFarlane and at Walter & Eppinghausen.

The great flouring mill of R.L. Thompson & Co. was turning out 300 barrels daily and shipping it to New York, Boston and other eastern cities.

The Wabash Woolen Mills on First Street were working full time. They made large shipments all the time, but still had considerable stock on hand.

Large shipments of sash, doors and blinds were being shipped out by Clift & Williams to fill orders from several western states. Their work was considered excellent and was proven by their expanding trade outlets.

The boiler factory of William Clift was very successful. He had just closed an extensive contract with the Vigo Iron Co., and his work there was very well done. In a growing economy, the firms of the 1870s scratched each other's back, and all prospered.

So it was in Terre Haute over 120 years ago on the industrial scene — and they didn't even have a "First Friday!"

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Brickmaking big early industry

Ts JUN 12 1994



Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

From the early days of Vigo County history, manufacture of clay products was an important factor.

The Ross brothers established the first brick factory in Terre Haute in the early 1820s. Shortly after this, the town changed from all-wooden structures (the earliest were of logs) to business buildings and later residences of brick.

Over the years, brickyards here have been too numerous to mention. Families made bricks right on their property if the soil was suitable.

By 1900, the making of "mud brick" from the alluvial clay was developed into the finer and more durable clay products from the use of shales and other clays.

The clay industries along the west bluffs of the Wabash River developed rapidly after 1900. Conditions were especially favorable because the raw material and abundance of cheap coal was combined with a network of railroad lines to ship the finished product to market.

Stoneware, vitrified wares, fireproofing, etc. were made in large quantities and of recognized excellence in this county. The Vigo Clay Co. was established in 1901 for the manufacture of hollow brick, fireproofing, etc. The C.M. Miller Mining & Mfg. Co. was established in 1904 for making vitrified brick.

The National Drain Tile Co. established a plant here in 1902. Terre Haute Brick & Pipe Co.

began making paving brick in 1894.

Progress in brickmaking was made possible by the invention of labor-saving devices. It was not that machinery could do so much more work than the old hand methods that made it desirable, but that manual labor was lightened and the conditions of the employees benefited.

In 1830, in Cincinnati a regular day's work for one molding crew was 9,000 bricks. One man put mud on the table, one man molded, one man carried off the molds and dumped the brick on the yard, one man would dig and haul the clay in the pits, one man would wheel dry bricks off the yard and put them under the shed ready to set, and one boy would drive the oxen that tempered the clay in round pits.

This pit held enough clay to make 3,000 bricks, making in all five men and one boy to the task of 9,000 bricks.

The molds held six bricks, three lengthwise, side by side. The molder would move his mold

from sandbox to table and, cutting down his walk, would take the clay by the double handfuls and throw it into the molds at the rate of one every second, and then strike off the clay from the top of the molds in about three seconds, making six bricks every 10 seconds.

The story was told of a celebrated race in 1837 between two stalwart men, both expert molders. They were to mold from sunrise to sunset. Bets ran high, and all the brick makers in Cincinnati stopped work that day to witness the contest.

At sunset, when the time for molding was up, one of the molders had produced 25,000 bricks, the other 24,700.

This seems incredible, but an eyewitness account was preserved. Names of the participants in this prodigious feat of skilled labor were Martin and Conell. Martin won the bet.

Unlike the sports contests of today, there was a useful product of the contest, namely 49,700 bricks. There was no television coverage, engraved silver cups, etc.

There was no machine that could turn out an average work to exceed 1,500 brick to each hand employed, so that the gain by machinery was found in the improved conditions of the labor force and the uniform superior quality of the brick.

In the early 1800s, bricks made by hand were of soft, tempered clay, dried in the sun and

burned in the old fashioned "cased-and-daubed" kilns, the same process used by early Egyptians.

As late as 1890, brick experts believed the talk of the great power of machines to press clay into brick was all speculative. Some said the machines would place 40 tons of pressure to a brick; some said 100 tons. But none believed it at first.

William Bergmann, pioneer Terre Haute brick manufacturer, came to Terre Haute shortly after 1850 and worked in the brickyards. In 1871, he purchased the old brick plant at what became 1625 S. First St. and began making bricks. He operated the plant until his death during the big distillery explosion on Oct. 20, 1880.

His son, Wilbo Bergmann, took over the brickyard after his father's death, and in 1890 moved the yard to a location south of Wabash Avenue, known as the Park brick plant.

Four years later, Bergmann moved the yard to 1100 N. First St. From 1894 to 1908, records tell us that the daily capacity of this plant was 13,000 bricks. Bergmann owned 67 acres of clay land, which furnished the raw product for his plant.

Terre Haute's first brick house was built at the southeast corner of First and Swan streets. The first brick storeroom was built at the southwest corner of Second and Ohio.

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Clark, Dorothy + History (43)

Big money invested in pork trade

TS OCT 30 1994

Last week's column began the account of pork-packing and cornmeal shipments, Terre Haute's major industries in early days...

The year was 1847 when Captain Harrington as owner and captain started his journey to New Orleans with two loaded corn boats, his cook, George C. Harding, and crew members, Morrison, and a Pennsylvania Dutchman, name unknown.

For a full week they explored New Orleans, dressed in calico shirts, check linen breeches, and battered straw hats. The trip ended at St. Louis for Harding where he enlisted in the Second Regiment, United States Dragoons. After two months' hospital experience at Jefferson Barracks, he was discharged.

Harding made two later voyages under Capt. Felix Courtney Files, of Darwin, Ill. The captain was a character, tall, slender but sinewy, and always melancholy. He considered pork boatmen the aristocracy of the river, and took it as an insult to be suspected of piloting a corn boat.

He only tolerated corn in liquid form. Capt. Files had a strong-lunged and able-bodied navigator whom he called Judge Bateman to do any necessary "cussing."

He was known to have been very angry at least one time when hailed from shore and asked if his was a "hay" boat. Now a hay boat sticks out of the water like a three-story house, while a pork boat shows only moderately above the surface of the river, so there was some excuse for the captain's rage!

Terre Haute's early pork packing industry, the heaviest trade of the town so far as the capital invested was concerned, was reported to have established fortunes for several of the residents.

The pioneer establishment in this branch of business, both in this city and in the Wabash Valley, was erected in 1824 by Ben-



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jamin I. Gilman of Cincinnati. His small brick office was on the east side of North First Street, the second lot north of Mulberry Street. Two barges left here in 1824 loaded with pork, the first large shipment by flatboat to New Orleans.

In 1864 this site was occupied by the porkhouse of Wm. J. Reiman. Gilman disposed of his pork packing business to Joseph Miller almost immediately, who continued the business for many years. Miller sold to J.L. Humaston and P.H. Griswold, who, after a time, were succeeded by L. Ryce and James Ross, who, in their turn were succeeded by Wm. J. Reiman & Co.

The next establishment was erected by John F. and Wm. S. Craft on the river bank, immediately above the premises of Paddock & Co., known in 1864 as Arba Holmes' Old Foundry on the Wabash & Erie Canal south of Wabash Ave.

They were succeeded in this pork house by John Burson, who had been packing in a cheap wooden structure which he had built on the south side of Wabash below First Street. Alex McCune packed at Burson's old pork house for a time.

Daniel Johnson and Ralph Wilson did business for some time in a frame house they built on the north side of Wabash, on the lot later occupied by J.M. Davis' wagon yard in connection with his hotel, the Davis House, on Wabash near the river.

Hogs also were packed on the premises later occupied by Dr.

Pence's residence at 23-25 S. Second St. This was Allen Pence, the druggist at the southwest corner of Second and Ohio.

John D. Early, after packing for some years with Joseph Miller, opened a pork house of his own in the cooper shop built by George Hamer on the south side of Mulberry Street, opposite (in 1864) to the large brick residence of Ephraim Wolfe, Esq., merchant, at 42 N. Second St.

Early's pork house continued to be used for some years before it was converted into a theater, where Terre Haute's old residents were entertained by the performances of old Aleck Drake and his wife, Sam Lathrop, Sam Burgess, and others who wore the buskin professionally, and also by the histrionic efforts of "native talent." The premises were later occupied by several families, and became known as the Early Flats, one of the first, if not the first row of apartment "flats" in the city.

Chauncey B. Miller erected a pork house in 1841 on the lot on the corner of Canal and Water Streets, where he did a commission packing business until 1846, when Jacob D. Early, who had been packing since 1836 with Joseph Miller, rented his establishment. Early purchased the premises in 1848, and built his large pork house the same year. His office was on Second Street near Wabash. His advertisements listed him as a "dealer in barreled pork, fancy hams and family lard."

James Johnson built a packing house on an alley between First Street and the river in 1843, and did a large business for some years.

James Farrington, Israel Williams and John Boudinot, under the firm name of John Boudinot & Co., built the first pork house on the ground occupied in 1864 by the magnificent establishment of the Messrs. Linn & Reed in 1842.

H.B. Reed, pork packer, resided at the Terre Haute House. His partner, M.C. Linn, lived on Eighth Street between Mulberry and Eagle. They were listed in 1854 as pork packers at 173 S. First St., also "curers of fancy hams."

They were succeeded by H.D. Williams & Co. who built his establishment in 1848. The two remaining fine pork houses of Messrs. Paddock & Co., and Wm. B. Warren, were erected, the former by Levi G. Warren and John Boudinot in 1849, and the latter by Geo. R. Wilson and Wm. B. Warren in 1850.

Benjamin and Samuel McKeen packed for some years at the former house in which they held interests.

John Duncan, well known to the trade on the Wabash as the packer of English meats, commenced business here in 1856 with the H.D. Williams & Co. From 1861 to 1864 he occupied a part of the establishment of Jacob D. Early & Son.

The pork houses of 1864 were those of Jacob D. Early & Son, Linn & Reed, Wm. B. Warren, S. Paddock & Co., and Wm. J. Reiman & Co., all of which were known for the high quality of their products.

From 1848 to 1864, the average number of hogs packed town was more than 61,000 head per year. They ranged from 108,791 in 1852 to 41,757 in 1859. The average amount of money annually invested in pork trade, including cooperage, boxing, labor, sometimes reached \$800,000. Large trade in beef also existed.

Exported almost exclusively by flat boat down river, the packing industry also on the Wabash & Erie Canal new railroads when they came into existence.

Brickyards thrived in late 1800s

Ts OCT 05 1993

off Clark, Dorothy

A century ago there was little demand for building materials. It was getting late in the fall season, yet five of the seven brickyards in Terre Haute were in operation, and the "paving stones of progress" were being turned out of the mills by the hundreds of thousands.

All this activity was due to a number of conditions — namely, the annual increases in price that come with the early spring trade; the demand from cities outside the area for the finer grades of Terre Haute brick; and not a little to the action of the Central Labor Union to keep foreign brick from finding sale in the city.

Heretofore the manufacturers in other cities had been paying little more than half the daily wages paid by the home manufacturers and were therefore placed at a decided advantage in competing for contracts.

Through the action of the Central Labor Union, the bricklayers agreed not to lay any foreign-made brick, and the hod carriers would not handle it, so the prospect was brighter for the local manufacturers.

The only brickyards not in operation were the Emil Teitge plant on the Prairieton Road and the mill owned by Mrs. Barrett on North Water Street, which had not been running all season.

At Bergmann's yards on North Water Street, the two mills were turning out 133,000 brick per day.

O'Mara Brothers were employing 18 men and two boys and turning out 19,500 brick daily. They had 200,000 burning in one kiln and about 100,000

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Clark retired as the Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
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bricks on hand, making a total of 300,000.

They expected to carry over 250,000 brick for the next season in anticipation of the annual increase in price that comes with the early spring trade. O'Mara planned to run until the middle of October. The brick-making season usually came to a close about the 15th or 20th of October.

Charles W. Hoff, the veteran brick maker, had both his yards on the Prairieton Road in operation. The three tables running furnished employment in the yards for 30 men who turned out 26,000 brick per day. One enormous kiln of 425,000 brick was burning, and Hoff had on hand an additional brick pile of a million and a quarter brick.

It was always Hoff's rule for years to keep his shed filled up, and he remarked, "I will work as long as frost will let me." He had received a large contract for the brick to be used in the new addition to the Terre Haute Brewing Co. plant.

When Hoff's father, 84-year-old Henry Hoff, visited the yard

he marveled at the size of the enormous kilns and the many improvements that had been made since he left the business back in the 1850s. The mammoth sheds which not only covered this large kiln, but also had room for the storage of hundreds of thousands of brick were 225 feet long, 60 feet wide and 34 feet high.

Ernest Alden, manager of the Terre Haute Pressed Brick Co., was pleased with the words of praise received for their product from prominent builders in the large cities.

About 26 men and boys were working his yards on North Water Street, making 25,000 mud brick daily. Capacity would be increased to 40,000 per day when the dry press machine was put into action.

The Terre Haute Pressed Brick Co. was represented by special agents in Milwaukee and Chicago who sold their product because "the color was good, the size correct, and first class brick in every respect." One of the World's Fair architects at Chicago said: "It is the best grade of pressed brick that comes into Chicago."

This company had the contract for the pressed brick in the new city school houses, Henry Miller's residence on North Eighth Street, as well as the store room of Jacob Schlotterbeck on North Ninth Street.

The company erected a new shed in which to display their 18 different shades of brick arranged in piles, laid as in a building wall. Of special interest was the new Simpson Brick Press Dry, a piece of machinery

of enormous power, a pressure of 60 tons being placed on each brick in its molding.

In 1897 the Terre Haute Brick & Pipe Co. was enjoying a rush of business at its plant across the river between the Vandalia and Big Four railroads. It had more orders than it could fill, and had grown from a small business in April 1895 to its daily working force of 60 men.

Major Collins of Brazil was president of the company; W.B. Houston, vice president; Will P. Blair, secretary; and J.H. Taylor, superintendent. The office was located at 25 S. Seventh St.

The bricks used for the inside lining for the new sewers and for the North Fourth Street pavement were ordered by Donn Roberts and made at this plant. The brick used for the sewer were of the vitrified type warranted against any leakage. They also made hollow bricks and grade tile.

In 1898, Donn Roberts and George Jenckes, who was engaged in business at Kennard, east of Indianapolis, were thinking of building a brickyard across the river, where the clay was said to be of the finest quality. Roberts had contracted with the Bennett Brothers of Terre Haute for 50,000 brick to be used on the canal system sewer. Some 500,000 bricks from Montezuma were to be used on the new south sewer.

Fortunes were made and lost by gaining or losing lucrative contracts for supplies and materials necessary for public projects. This made the brick industry in Terre Haute interesting and instructive in politics.

Matchless methods of light

From live coals to lard lamps, pioneers kept home fires burning

In early times it was the custom with everybody to keep fire, usually in the kitchen fireplace during the summer, from the preparation of one meal to the next by partly covering a burning chunk or some live coals with ashes.

There were no matches with which to start a fire, and it was rather difficult with a flintlock rifle. If a neighbor's fire burned out, they would send some of the children to "borrow fire" to start again. The hot coals could be carried in a covered metal container. It was a very rare thing for a country home to have no fire.

In the 1840s, the first matches could be found on sale at the country store or trading post. A very small box (perhaps a dozen or so sulfur matches) was a real convenience item.

One pioneer told of the first cook stove he owned, a "Wolf," a very heavy stove made at Cincinnati. It had a very large fire-box that would take in 2-foot stove wood.

Dip candles were made in Indiana by finding 2-foot-long dry stems of Goldenrod. Wicks were prepared by doubling and slightly twisting cotton wicks about 6 inches long and much larger than present-day candles.

Eight or 10 wicks were strung on each of the Goldenrod sticks by their loops. In a large deep iron kettle full of tallow, some



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beeswax was added to make the candles more firm. This was kept melted, but not too hot, while the dipping was being done, or the partly made candles would be melted. No thermometer was handy to test the proper temperature.

A stick of wicks was carefully dipped into the melted mixture, and hung to drain over a pan to catch the drippings. The other sticks of wicks were dipped in turn, and after each dripping a thin coat of wax would stick to the candles until they were a half inch in diameter. This special dipping furnished 60 or 80 candles for home use, enough for quite a while as candles were used in those early days.

Then came three-candle tin molds, later the six and 12. Candles were used in heavy iron, in brass candlesticks, and also in tin lanterns.

Someone invented a candle "snuffer," not to put out the

light, but to clip off the charred end of the big wicks and cause them to give a better light.

The snuffers were made on the principle of a pair of scissors with a small box fastened on one of the blades to catch the clipped-off candle snuff. A point on the end was made to open the wick and cause a better light. Snuffers were made of iron or brass, and every family had one or more of them. The early snuffers were usually wrought-iron.

The tin lanterns were about 5½ inches in diameter and 12 inches high, including a cone-shaped top to which was fastened a tiny ring handle. A hinged door was made in one side of the lantern, and there was a tin socket in the center of the bottom of the lantern to hold the candle.

The lantern had many perforations, some of ornamental design to permit rays of light to pass through and illuminate the road or objects as desired. It could be carried about barns and other buildings with safety.

A small iron grease lamp was also used in early days. It was a round, flat cup 1 inch deep, about 3 inches across and connected on a level with this was a 2-inch extension 1 inch wide and 1 inch deep in which to place a wick. The top was covered, one half the lid on the circular part, and that nearly over all the wick

part being hinged to allow easy refilling with grease and easy wick replacement.

Opposite the wick part, a handle of thin ¾-inch iron, 6 inches long, was fastened firmly, straight up from the bottom. The top end had a small hole in it in which to fasten a piece of wire or nail that could be anchored in a hole or crack in the log cabin wall. This little lamp was cheap, serviceable and handy to carry around.

A cold-lard lamp was patented by Stonsefer on Aug. 8, 1854. It consisted of a tin, pan-like base 6½ inches in diameter, on the center of which was soldered a tin cylinder 2¼ inches in diameter and 4¼ inches high. A screw a quarter inch in diameter and 5 inches long with a coarse spiral thread was fastened firmly to the base in the center of the cylinder by a swivel.

This complicated lamp was used by the whole family to read, study or sew by; and it gave a light equal to the first coal oil lamp, but it took more care to keep it operating.

The first petroleum or coal oil was sold in small bottles labeled "Rock Oil from Canada" and cost 25 cents each. It was used as a liniment to relieve pains and afflictions in man or beast. The well-known coal oil lamps soon became popular, and people found other medications to use.

Street by street

History of Terre Haute, old merchants recalled

TS JAN 12 1992
The late A.R. Markle used to conjure up local history by beginning with a downtown street corner. When he turned over to me all his notes and ideas for future columns, I stowed them away to use at a far distant date. So, here goes.

For example, on the northeast corner of Fourth and Main stood the Naylor Opera House, a huge building for its time. Three stories high with a mansard roof, it had three large store rooms on the street level, separated by two wide stairways leading to the second floor. Other stairs led to lodge rooms and a gallery over all.

The store of Hoberg, Root & Co., 400 Wabash, was in its third location since beginning business in 1856 as Rice, Edsall & Co.

At 404 Main was A.R. Jeserich & Son, at 406 was Freeman's Jewelry sharing a room with E.L. Godecke's famous book store.

Adjoining the Opera House in a somewhat similar building but not as tall, was Sheldon S. Swope, jeweler. Lee Goodman & Co., clothiers, were next at 410. At 416 Main was Leo Werner's saloon.

Across the alley at 418, Foster Brothers had their furniture store. Philip Schloss had his clothing store at 420, while Joe Nirdlinger furnished competition at 422.

John N. Wolf sold hardware at 424 Maain. The next room was jointly occupied by Samuel L. Strauss with millinery, and A.C. Vansant & Co. with sewing machines. Finally, at the corner was the drygoods store of J.F. Jauriet.

On the south side of Main between Fifth and Sixth streets

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was a solid block known as Merchants Row. It was built in 1855 by a number of owners who joined in its construction. Far larger than the older Phoenix and Union Rows on the north side of Main between Third and Fourth, it had seen more changes by alteration.

At the corner of Fifth was Sig Loeb's men's furnishings store. A huge stuffed black bear standing outside testified that there were furs inside.

P.J. Hogan at 503 had a saloon with Regan & Best. At 505 was L. Rosenberg's notion store, and Andrew Noyes with boots and shoes. The American Express was next door for many years at 507. Nick Boland had his shoe store next at 509. Israel K. Clatfelter also made and sold boots and shoes at 511 Main.

At 513 was Joseph Erlanger's clothing store, next door to another nootion store owned by W.D. Jones. R.W. Rippetoe had a grocery store at 521 Main.

James Hunter was at 523, where one could have his laundry sent to Troy, N.Y., for a very modest fee.

Will White had a bakery and confectionery at 523. Next was Cal Thomas "at the sign of the clock."

At 529, E. Hirschberg sold cigars or cheroots, and at the corner, J.B. Ludowici owned the hotel facing on Sixth, and another shoe store.

The wholesale grocery store of Herman Hulman & Co., in their fourth location, was on the northwest corner of Fifth and Main. The east half of their room was used by Slaughter & Watkins, hardware dealers.

Next to them at 506 Main was the wholesale dry goods house of Havens & Geddes who nearly 20 years later were to lose their new building and its contents in Terre Haute's most disastrous fire.

Owen Ripley & Co. was next, extending east to the alley. Across the alley at 512 was the grocery store of Simmons & Pierce.

Townley Brothers sold stoves at 514; then came the hardware store of Shryer Brothers. Miller & Cox owned the men's furnishings store at 522, and J.Q. Button & Co. had their bookstore, an especially busy place when school started in the fall.

At 526 was the Bement & Rea wholesale grocery, best remembered for rolling empty sugar hogsheads onto the vacant lot where the McKeen Bank stood later.

Every day boys could be found inside these huge barrels scraping off bits of sugar cane, etc. No one could remember where the sugar barrels were stored after the bank was built.

Diagonally across the street on the southeast corner of Sixth and Main was the large Beach Block,

and later the Montgomery Ward Store. George Arbuckle had his dry goods store here, a double-front with a stairway between, which in later days was joined on the upper floor by a long hall extending across the alley by an overhead passage extending through the later Beach Block to Ohio Street.

From this hall was a stairway at the back for the store, another led down into the backyard across the alley, two others led down to Sixth Street, and at the far end, one led down to Ohio Street.

Many a girl was left waiting at the foot of one of these steps while her "gentleman" friend escaped by another outlet.

Paige's music store was at 607; Robinson's saloon at 609; Rapp's butcher shop at 611. Johnson's oyster house and saloon was located at 613 and another one was at 615. Taylor's confectionery was at 617, and Ed Taylor had a barber shop in a frame building at 619 that had Seeman's cigar factory in the east room.

Across the alley, James F. Brennan had his tailor shop, with Otto Statz and his jewelry, and Ed Purcell with sewing machines next door.

Grosjean & McKennon made cigars next door, and at 637 was Schaefer's Hotel with a saloon next door run by the same man.

Herman Weber had a saloon at 641 Main. Mike Walsh's newsstand at 645 shared space with Lafayette Mallory, coal dealer. Next door was Phil Spengler's barber shop.

Which leaves the reader right in the heart of downtown Terre Haute. Until another time . . ."

Valley heritage

Hog packing profitable venture

Is Dec 13 1992
A great deal of money scattered by Terre Haute over the county in advances on hogs and their purchases in the winter and spring months.

A trader from Clay County, for example, would go early in the season to Jacob D. Early and say to that dignified man, "Jake, there are some little lots of hogs that I want to pick up, and I want a little money."

Early would ask, "How much?"

"Oh, not much — \$5,000 is enough now," the trader would reply, and he would get it, just as other dealers would for the hogs still roaming on the farms or in the woods of neighboring counties.

What's more, probably the dealer would change his check for \$5,000 into the dollar and two-dollar bills of "Watson's scrip," the famous circulation medium of this area in the days of "wild cat banks."

A string of packing houses along the Wabash riverfront of the old town would be busy until the "spring fresh" when the river was full and steamboating good, and the flatboats ready for the long float south.

In the best season, more than 100,000 hogs were packed in Terre Haute and between that number and 50,000 in other seasons for a number of years. With the present price of pork, does any reader care to guess how many millions the packing industry could bring in?

In the early days, thousands

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

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of hogs waddled into town on their own feet. The more obese hogs rode into town on farm wagons. Farmers also brought in other thousands of hogs already killed and dressed at home in "hog-killing" time.

Packed pork was cheap enough, but it paid well when live hogs were sold at \$2 up to \$3 a hundred and corn was worth 12½ cents to 15 cents a bushel.

Railroads cut into river and canal trade, and the rates discriminated in favor of the large cities. The speculative nature of the lard and pork markets at the close of war times helped wipe out some of the profits that had been made in the good, old days.

At a time when annual state revenue did not reach \$75,000, the legislature borrowed \$10 million to build canals, roads and railroads throughout the state. Two canals — The Wabash & Erie and the Whitewater — were the results of this effort. The Wabash & Erie Canal extended to Terre Haute.

The Panic of 1837 followed by the depression of 1839-1843, as well as the gross mismanagement of the borrowed capital, bankrupted the state. But the railroads were the most important transportation improvement — first the Madison and Indianapolis (1847) and then many other lines that crisscrossed the state. The number of miles of rail trackage increased from less than 200 in 1850 to more than 2,000 in 1860.

Corn-hog farming always has been basic in Indiana. Wheat and oats were two other important pioneer crops. Rye, barley, buckwheat, flax and tobacco also were grown.

Cattle, sheep and horses were common, although usually much less numerous than hogs.

Exports of farm produce — corn, meal, wheat, flour, pork, lard, tobacco and vegetables — increased, especially during the second quarter of the pioneer era. Most of this produce went down the rivers on flatboats, ultimately descending the Mississippi River to New Orleans to be consumed on slave plantations in the Lower South.

The wounds of the Civil War, literal and psychological, healed slowly; politics during the Reconstruction period were faced with this burden. Slowly the nation shifted back to a peacetime footing.

The question over how much, if any, paper currency to leave in circulation (the Greenback issue)

and how best to reconvert the manufacturing establishments and to resume railroad construction in the latter 1860s were replaced with the more serious problems of a full-scale depression after 1873.

As the country emerged from the Panic of 1873, the Grant scandals, and the celebration of the centennial, renewed attention was focused on ways of regulating the railroad and helping the farmers enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Pioneer manufacturing was based principally on products from farms and forests. Manufactured goods came mainly from household processes, from trades or crafts, and from mills.

Tradesmen set up shops in which they made shoes, hats, guns and leather goods. Some tradesmen became traveling salesmen. Blacksmiths were common, and performed many services for tradesmen and mills.

The task of grinding corn into meal and wheat into flour soon was transferred from household to miller in most neighborhoods, making milling the first major industry to develop in Indiana.

The years 1865 to 1920 brought many significant changes in Indiana society. Black Hoosiers continued to total less than 3 percent. Foreign born in Indiana remained less than 10 percent of the state's total population.

The times they were a-changing!